

THE STAR'S

STATION WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOTES

COMPUTER COMPANIES

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Arabic transparency

The great charade

● THERE HAS been a great deal of discussion about the virtues of transparent solutions in enabling programs which were developed for the English language market to be used in Arabic with a reasonable amount of functionality. It's time that we stopped and faced the fact that transparency has done nothing but stifle the development of Arabic software by local and international developers. It is probably the most harmful aspect of the Middle East computer environment today.

The MS-DOS market place has been dominated by transparent solutions such as Nafitha, Musaad Al-Arabi and others. There was a good reason why these products were popular and in fact very useful. The early days of the PC revolution (post 1981) saw thousands of English language products coming onto the market. A few of these became an international standard, while the majority had a relatively short life. The sheer size of the English and subsequently European language markets made the decision not to develop applications for a complex language like Arabic a foregone conclusion.

For this reason primarily it was essential in the early days to develop a way to be able to use Arabic without the involvement of the original manufacturers. The Arabic shells which were created for the DOS environment could provide significant transparency allowing the English application to work in Arabic with a great deal of functionality.

The down side was that there was little incentive for major software companies to put any effort into Arabic language applications because the Arabic layer on DOS did a good enough job in most cases. Granted, there has been some limited work done by companies like Ashton-Tate, but there was no incentive to do more than "test the water".

Even Lotus had little to do, since a local company provided the expertise for the Arabization of 1-2-3 under Nafitha. The result has been a dearth of international expertise in Arabic development, which has resulted in the Arabic market place receiving scant attention from major developers world-wide.

Today we see the use of transparency as being detrimental to the market. It has limited the growth of true Arabic application development and has allowed international developers to avoid spending any money on the Middle East.

While the rest of the world is in the midst of a transition into a Graphical User Interface (GUI), the Middle East is faced with a significant decision. Microsoft has provided a solid platform on which developers can build Arabic applications in the Windows environment. At the same time, various local developers have come out with Arabic transparency layers for Windows, attempting to prolong the agony of par-

tial solutions in a market that has suffered from this for too long. The result has been clearly demonstrated in semi-functional solutions that operate painfully slowly and often with marginal results. This is not a reflection on the developers. What they have done is interesting from a technical view, but by perpetuating the "Transparency Myth" they are actually doing a disservice to the Arabic market-place. The lure of a transparent Arabic solution means that the major manufacturers can again ignore the Arabic market place and leave it to the local semi-

functional solutions. Arabic Windows is a fully documented Arabic application programming interface that allows the developer to complete over the environment. Furthermore, the use of a native Windows product ensures that all the printers that English Windows supports will be available to the Arabic user. Lastly, the fact that the platform is provided by Microsoft, the largest manufacturer of software in the world, ensures developers that the environment will be continually enhanced and improved and carried forward to future members of the Windows family such as Windows NT.

This is certainly no guarantee that local developers will be willing or even able to carry forward a transparency layer to these ever more sophisticated operating systems.

Offering transparency in an operating system for a certain language is the best way to kill that developing market. This is why Arabic Windows does not represent a transparent solution, in spite of the fact that many applications work quite well transparently. The only real solution to provide great Arabic applications for the market is to develop the Arabic functionality into the base program. Transparency is a dead end.

Microsoft Windows User
Middle East

LinoType-Hell seminar and exhibition day

IDEAL SYSTEMS CO. has officially acquired the agency for LinoType-Hell products in Jordan. The benefits to be gained from LinoType-Hell products in the publishing sector and the many ways in which Apple Macintosh and LinoType-Hell products can complement one another in the publishing sector will be the subject of a one-day activity at the Amman Marriott Hotel including seminars and an exhibition.

Here is an exclusive look at the schedule for this eventful day, Saturday 5 December:

10-11am: An Introduction to LinoType-Hell. This includes the history of each company and why they merged. LinoType-Hell in Jordan and a fast introduction to LinoType-Hell including Postscript printing and the scanner.

12pm: Photocomposition now and for everybody, including its relation to personal computers and differences between using

such a method as compared to laser printer production.

3pm: LinoType-Hell as an ideal solution for magazines and newspapers, including benefits of automation, speed and quality of production and some case studies of local experiments.

5pm: Color Separation using LinoType-Hell in an environment of traditional color separation using scanners and mod-

ern methods using photocomposition, including the possibilities of using postscript with scanners.

Basil Tutunji, marketing and sales manager at Ideal Systems Co., commented, "LinoType-Hell's outlook for the future is consistent with the advancements in personal computer technology, and with the development of new Arabic fonts and Arabic operating systems, we feel that customers in Jordan will take advantage of these quality products".

Price wars are on

"THIS IS appalling and disgusting!" commented a friend of mine upon hearing of the new low-price Macintosh PowerBook series, having already bought a PowerBook 145 from the United States. "They should offer users guarantees that their machines won't be outdated after three months from release," he said. "Is three months the average life expectancy for a new product in today's computer industry?" He and others who feel the same have got a point.

We've heard of fast advancements in technology, but surely this is ridiculous. Don't get me wrong, technology is a wonderful thing, but when consumers splash out their money on a product, only to find that it's been outdated by a much better product for a lower price, this could be a good reason for losing faith in a hardware or a software producer.

Take Compaq for example, they've been going crazy since the beginning of this year. They released all sorts of "budget" desktop PCs, like the Prolinea and DeskPro series and notebook computers like the Contura. Even IBM is getting in on the act, releasing its own clone, The Ambra, offering a 386PC for just under \$1000. It looks as though American PC manufacturers have declared a price war against Asian manufacturers, who for many years have been selling PCs for 30 percent less! Now IBM, Dell, Compaq, Gateway, AST and other big and dependable names are releasing American PCs at Taiwanese prices.

IBM are letting 40,000 workers go this year. Digital Equipment Corp. are laying off 18,000 employees and vacating 165 facilities. It's a rough time for hardware producers and these confused pricing policies can only reflect a panic to survive. In other words, what we are seeing today is a "deconstruction of the computer industry", as *Business Week* magazine described it recently.

PC users have become accustomed to the idea that every couple of years they would have to use higher machines, since processor power is expected to double and prices are expected to go down. Besides, most PCs offer expandability to their users. Some users out there have owned the same machines for around six years, adding what's necessary every now and then.

These are the harsh realities of today's international computer industry. Getting back to the home user, we should ask the following question: "Is it safe anymore to buy a computer?"

There is a positive side to all this. Lower prices mean keeping the cash in the pockets of us buyers, doesn't it? According to a financial study, 49 percent worth of the old prices is staying in customers' pockets. Now that should mean having more money to spend on other computer goods. I suppose it's just the problem of a user losing faith in a brand name as a result of feeling "betrayed". Just like 10,000 Commodore Amiga 500+ owners felt after buying their machines for £399 and hearing that a new and more advanced machine, the Amiga 600, had just been released for £299.

To many home users, all this talk of the economics and business side of the computer industry has seemed unimportant for many years, but today it seems that you had better know the ups and downs of companies — and the industry as a whole — in order to make a wise investment in the right machine for you. However, there is still no need to panic! It's still safe to say that a 30 to 33 MHz, 386sx PC with good expensive abilities is a safe choice for at least another couple of years, because these machines are getting cheaper while at the same time becoming the industry standard, which is actually a rather rare situation. So there is a ray of hope to be found for the time being. Thank Heavens for that!

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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An optimistic tone from the Governor

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A bumpy ride to pluralism

JORDAN WEEK:

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The Communist and Baathist parties remain outside the democratic arena for now, while the Islamists get their own party, as do a handful of pro-establishment groups



Minister Jawdat Shoul

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Shoul's decision on parties: A set-back for pluralism?

Pluralism in Jordan took a nasty bump on the head this week after Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul decided to reject registration applications of the Arab Socialist Baath Party and the Jordanian Communist Party on the grounds that their charters contravene with the Constitution, the National Charter and the Parties Law.

But on Tuesday, Mr Shoul gave his stamp of approval to the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Action Front. The recognition gives formal status to the Muslim Brothers, who since the 1950s have been functioning as a charitable society. The General Secretary of the party is Dr Isma' Al Farhan. The minister also legalized *Al Mustaqbal* (Future) whose general secretary is former minister Mr Suleiman Arar. At least seven other parties are waiting for the minister's verdict.

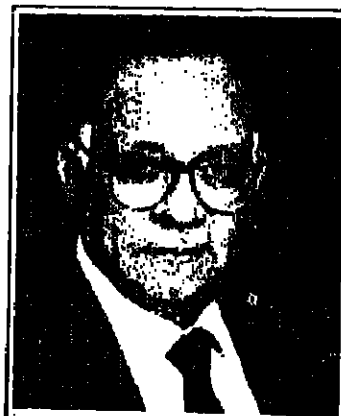
Naturally, the positive response to the Islamists' application increased the disenchantment of leftist activists with Mr Shoul's decision to reject the applications of the Communist and Baathist parties.

On Monday, Mr Shoul approved the registration of two pro-establishment parties, *Al Ahd* (Pledge), under Mr Abdel Hadi Majali, and the Popular Union Party (PUP) under Mr Talal Ramahi.

Last week the Jordan National Alliance Party, whose General Secretary is Mr Mijhim Khreisha, became the first political party in Jordan to be legalized. It too is considered pro-establishment.

"What kind of opposition are we to have in Jordan if these two parties are not legalized?" asked one political commentator. "The whole purpose of the democratic process is to incorporate the opposition into the mainstream, rather than keeping them underground."

Ad Dastour columnist and former National Charter Committee member, Mr Hamadeh Faraneh, defended the track record of the Communist Party and said that its representatives were recruited into the National Charter Com-



Minister Shoul

mittee and that they had reconciled and cooperated with committee members.

Six parties were reported to have called on Mr Shoul to reconsider his decision. In a statement signed by the Communist, Arab Baath, Jordan Democratic, Progressive, Democratic Popular Union and Socialist Democratic parties, the parties said that reasons given for the minister's rejection "conflict with the democratic process and its needs." They added that these reasons "affect political stability and may weaken popular resolve to stand against...the United States and its allies (whose objective is) to force their hegemony on the area and its people."

Meanwhile, The Jordan Progressive Party has decided to change its name to the Freedom Party, *Ad Dastour* reported. The party will apply for registration next week.

The turning down of the Communist and Baathist parties' applications were stated in two letters sent to the general secretaries of the two parties. Citing paragraphs from the Constitution, the National Charter and the Parties Law, Mr Shoul's arguments included objections to similarities in the two parties' names with counterparts outside Jordan, to contradictions in the principles and objectives of the two parties with the Constitution and the National Charter of the Kingdom.

In his response to Dr Yacoub Zayyadin of the Communist Party, Mr Shoul said that the party fundamentals of Marxism and scientific socialism contradict with

the second article of the Constitution which states that Islam is the state religion.

Mr Shoul contrasted between Jordan's social, economic and political realities, as stated in the Constitution and the National Charter, and the aims, objectives and philosophy of the Communist Party.

In his letter to the General Secretary of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, Mr Ahmad Nijdawi, Minister Shoul made similar contrasts and concluded that the aims, functions and charter of the party violate the conditions stated in the Parties Law and contradict articles in the Constitution.

Mr Shoul's decision drew criticism even from fellow minister Ibrahim Izzidin, who told the *Jordan Times* that the decision was taken by the Interior Ministry and not the cabinet, and that the parties that were denied registration were "part and parcel of the democratic system and I don't believe these violate the stipulations of the Constitution." Mr Izzidin's criticisms created an uproar inside the cabinet, sources told *The Star*.

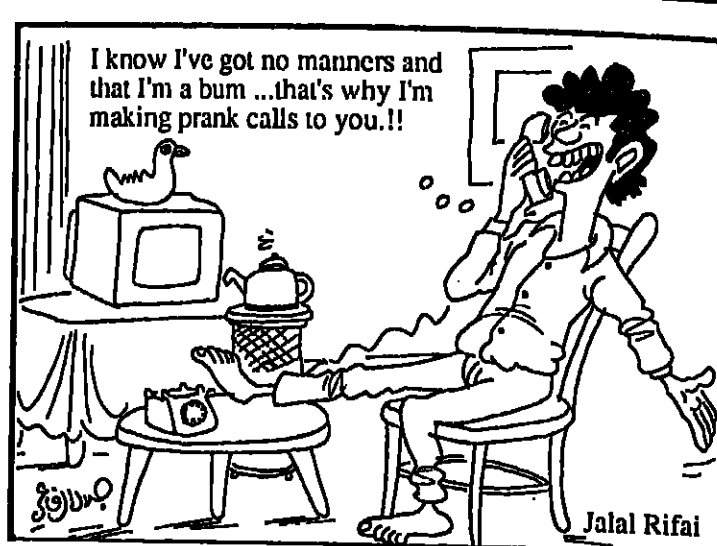
Mr Shoul defended his decisions and said that he was within his rights in denying the two parties legal status. He said his decision was based on legal grounds.

Naturally, Dr Zayyadin and Mr Nijdawi rejected the ministry's decision and accused Mr Shoul "of tightening the grip on pluralism and freedom of opinion." Mr Zayyadin said the decision does not conform with calls to make Jordan an example of democratic life. The Communist Party is expected to appeal the decision.

Mr Nijdawi announced that his party will appeal at the Higher Court of Justice and said that the court had ruled in 1954 that the party's charter did not violate the Constitution. Both parties have 30 days to appeal.

Islamists condemn US operation in Somalia

Muslim Brothers deputies condemned what they described as "the American onslaught to control the Horn of Africa" in reference to the UN sponsored opera-



Jalal Rifai

tion to intervene in Somalia to ensure delivery of food to the famine-stricken population. In a statement issued by the bloc early this week, the deputies called on the *Umma* to solve the problems of Arab Somalia and feed its famished people. The statement called on the *Umma* to resist "this colonial invasion and to reject the use of the UN or its transformation into an American corporation." The deputies also called on Somali factions to stand united before this American invasion.

Arabs under poverty line in Israel

The Israeli Central Statistics Department and the National Insurance Corporation in Israel have revealed that over 30 percent of Israeli Arabs live below the line of poverty, *Al Quds* newspaper reported. The paper said that 562,000 Arabs of an estimated 792,000 live in poor conditions. The paper quoted Knesset sources as saying that of the 50,000 civil servants in Israel, only 1500 are Arabs. It added that unemployment among Israeli Arabs was rampant and that most Arabs suffer from discrimination when seeking jobs in Israel.

Another study revealed that the average birth rate among Israeli Jews has dropped to its lowest level since 1948. The average number of babies for each Jewish woman is 2.6 percent while it is 4.7 percent for Muslim women. Jews make up 81.9 percent of Israel's 5 million population. Muslims make up 13.9, Christians 2.5 and Druze 1.7 percent.

Without Russian Jews, the percentage of Jews in Israel would have levelled off at 80 percent. In the 1960s it was 88.9 percent, but dropped to 85.4 percent in the 1970s and took another dip to 83.7 in the 1980s. If Israel had annexed the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where 1.7 million Palestinians live, then Jews would make up only 60 percent of the population.

Demographic studies conclude that, at current birth rates, Israeli Arabs will make up 50 percent of the population of Israel in 25 years.

Arab population meeting to be held in April

The Arab Population Conference jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab League and the United Nations Population Fund will be held on the ministerial level from 4 to 8 April 1993 in Amman, ESCWA sources said.

While constituting the Arab contribution in the preparation of the United Nations International

Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo from next September, the forthcoming Arab Population Conference will review, examine and analyze key population-related issues in the Arab countries. It will evaluate the implementation of population-related policies in those countries.

It will also prepare a set of recommendations addressing key population related issues and policies in the region.

The Conference will examine changing population growth and structures; population policies and programs; population, environment and development; population distribution and internal migration; international migration, women and development, and family planning, health and family well-being.

Members of the Arab League are expected to be represented by the concerned ministers accompanied by government officials and experts. All relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Arab League will be invited to participate as observers.

Iraqi nuclear engineer shot in Jebel Hussein

An Iraqi nuclear engineer was shot dead on Monday in Jebel Hussein by a masked man who managed to escape, *Ad Dastour* newspaper reported. Thirty-five-year-old Muayyad Hassan Janabi was walking with his wife and two children in the area where they lived when an unidentified man intercepted them and shot Mr Janabi in the head and then shot him again three times. The killer escaped with an accomplice, eyewitnesses told the paper, but later police sources said two Iraqis were arrested in connection with the murder.

Sharif Zaid invited to Lebanon

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker has received an invitation from his Lebanese counterpart Mr Rafiq Hariri to visit Lebanon, *The Star* has learned.

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An optimistic note from the governor

No threat to the exchange rate stability, Nabulsi says

EDITOR'S NOTE: Central Bank Governor Dr Mohamad Said Nabulsi says the CBJ will continue to follow policies aimed at strengthening monetary stability. He also predicts a GDP growth of 6 percent in 1993. In an interview with *The Star* and sister publication *Economic Perspectives*, the governor outlined the CBJ's policies for 1992 and made optimistic observations about economic and monetary prospects for the coming year. Following is the full text of the interview.

The Star/EP: How would you describe the Central Bank's regulatory policies during 1992? Have they achieved their goals and what general policies would the Central Bank follow during 1993?

Gov. Nabulsi: The Central Bank of Jordan has continued to undertake appropriate monetary measures in 1992 within the framework policy that was embarked on since 1989 to restore and enhance monetary stability.

Therefore, the requirements for exchange rate stability as well as combating inflationary pressures have since then been the main focus of monetary policy measures. The success achieved has exceeded all expectations as it was possible to strengthen and unify the exchange rate since February 1990 (around 672 fils), and to reduce the inflation rate to an estimated rate of 3% in 1992.

Needless to say that such success has contributed to the restoration of confidence in the national economy and is considered as the best support that monetary policy can offer to the revival of investment and growth.

In conformity with the above-stated objectives the CBJ has continued to subject credit expansion to an overall credit ceiling as well as limit credit expansion to the public sector to ensure availability of adequate credit to the private sector.

Moreover, the statutory reserve ratio has been raised by 2 percentage points to reach 13 percent to commercial banks and to 7 percent for investment banks. The CBJ has also established a new six-month deposit facility carrying an interest rate of 4 percent for banks. In addition, banks have been required to comply with two ratios, the first is a capital adequacy ratio limiting credit to 10 times capital and reserves, and the second limiting credit to deposit to 90 percent. The two main objectives of these measures have been to cope with excess liquidity of the banking system and to achieve a greater degree of prudence and soundness of banks.

As for 1993, the course of monetary policy will not be altered, and the strengthening of monetary stability will continue to be given first priority. This requires continuing to apply credit ceilings, enhancing soundness of banks by all means available, and taking all appropriate measures in support of the revival of investment, exports and growth. Further liberalization of monetary policy and limiting direct intervention will also be given due consideration.

The preoccupation with monetary stability did not prevent the CBJ from continuing to treat favorably priority sectors. Credit institutions has remained subject to an interest rate ceiling of 10 percent despite the decision taken earlier to free the interest rate structure. The terms for CBJ export refinancing have also been

case and the related facility broadened in scope. Another concern for monetary policy has been the easing of monetary constraints as much as circumstances permit. Money changes have recently been licensed to operate. Moreover, foreign exchange control were recently subjected to certain modifications. The CBJ increased the ceiling of foreign currency payments in invisible expenditures to reach an equivalent amount of JD 20,000 compared with JD 10,000 in 1991.

Q: The Central Bank's efforts to restructure the banking sector have yielded positive results so far. What are the main features of the Central Bank's plan to restructure this sector?

A: A sound banking system is indispensable to a healthy economy in view of the need for efficient intermediation between savers and investors. The banking system has been traditionally a leading sector in the Jordanian economy. However, the negative change in the economic environment during the 1980s brought to surface central weaknesses which were made worse in some cases by deviating from prudent banking practices.

Therefore, the CBJ has found it necessary to initiate a comprehensive reorganization and rehabilitation of the banking system. The efforts undertaken since 1989 have been twofold. On one hand, banks with severe problems have been dealt with individually by liquidation, merger, or reorganization. On the other hand, measures to promote soundness and prudence in the entire banking system have been adopted. These measures have paid particular attention to capitalization and provisioning as well as to reinforcing bank supervision.

Q: The Jordanian economy is registering positive growth rates for 1992. What are your expectations for the Jordanian economy in 1993, including GNP, GDP and inflation rate?

A: The Gulf crisis brought about a great deal of pessimism with regard to its potential negative consequences to the Jordanian economy at a time (when the economy was) undergoing strenuous adjustment efforts. The initial impact of the crisis has in fact been substantial and the same could be said of some of its long time ramifications. Nonetheless, we know by now that the economic setback did not last long, and economic upturn was achieved much sooner than was expected. The Jordanian economy proved once again that it is adequately resilient and possesses the vitality and flexibility needed to cope with external shocks.

Two factors at least can be credited with major contributions to the economic recovery in 1992. First, the implementation of the economic adjustment program corrected the course of economic policy and created a much more



Dr Nabulsi: Banks will be affected by the Basle Accord

conductive atmosphere to the revival of economic activity. Second, the repatriation of the returnees savings provided a stimulus to consumer demand and to the construction sector which ultimately spread to other sectors.

As a result, GDP growth at constant prices in 1992 is estimated at more than 11 per cent which has been supported by a rise in investment to GDP ratio to 24.4 percent.

Nonetheless, monetary policy maintained the downward pressure on inflation which is estimated to fall to 3 percent in 1992 in terms of the GDP deflator.

The outlook for 1992 is favorable but that does not warrant complacency by economic policy makers. The economic recovery still needs to be nurtured and adjustment efforts must still be continued.

Sustainability of adequate balanced growth is the challenge for 1993 and beyond. At any rate, initial estimates project real GDP growth at 6 percent in 1993, which if achieved will contribute to higher standards of living by 2.5 percent.

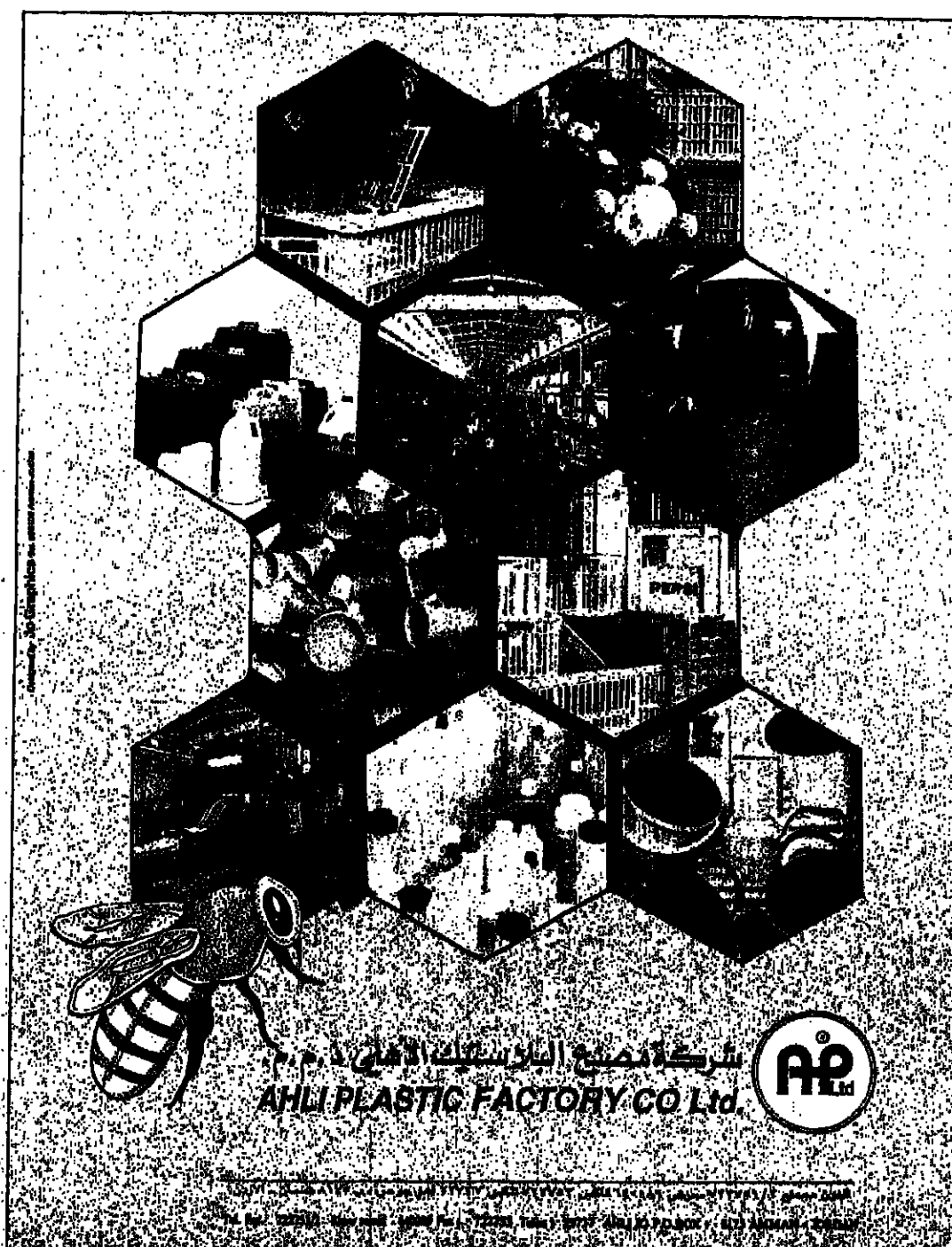
The pressure emanating from higher aggregate demand is, however, expected to raise inflation, measured by the GDP deflator, to 4.5 percent.

Q: How far have your negotiations with the IMF and the London Club reached? Is Jordan on course where the economic adjustment plan is concerned? Will Jordan face any difficulties on the short term with regard to foreign currency reserves? If not, when will Jordan face difficulties on long term and, henceforth, start renegotiating our foreign debts again?

A: Jordan resorted to programmed adjustment in 1989 in cooperation with the IMF and the IBRD. Two programs have since been adopted, the first covered the period 1989-1994 and was successfully implemented until the eruption of the Gulf crisis. The second, covered the period (1992-1998) and its implementation has so far been on track. These programs are designed to restore and sustain economic growth in a non inflationary environment, generate employment and achieve budgetary and balance of payments stability.

The pursuit of programmed adjustment by Jordan has achieved notable success. Corrective policy measures undertaken proved to be adequate for the achievement of programmed targets, and objectives. In fact, in some instances Jordan exceeded the targets and projected improvements in economic indicators. Such success has contributed substantially to the restoration of economic and financial stability on both the domestic and external fronts of the

Continued on next page



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An optimistic note from the governor

Continued from previous page

Jordanian economy. This, in turn, provided for an economic environment conducive to the revival of non-inflationary economic growth on a sustainable basis. The adoption of program adjustment has also helped Jordan in mobilizing international support, including external debt relief on favorable terms.

The national economy's external balance is continuously strengthening and there is no foreseeable threat to the exchange rate stability or to foreign exchange reserves, which have risen to the comfortable level of JD 627.2 million at the end of September 1992 compared with JD 76 million at the end 1988.

As far as external debt relief is concerned, Jordan has been able to conclude two rescheduling agreements with the Paris Club. The latest one was signed on 28 February 1992, which enabled Jordan to reschedule debt service falling due during 1992 and the first six months of 1993 amounting to \$790 million. The rescheduling agreement grants Jordan ten years grace period and ten more years to repay the rescheduled amounts.

Moreover, Jordan is negotiating with the London Club to reschedule on the terms of the Brady Plan \$1.2 billion of commercial debt. Other significant efforts have been made to reduce Jordan's external debt burden utilizing various available options.

As a result of these continuing efforts the debt burden is becoming more and more manageable. This and the growing debt servicing capacity of the economy should relieve all fears concerning the resurfacing of external debt difficulties.

Q: How will the Basle Accord affect Jordanian banks; will they have to abide by it?

A: The objective of the Basle Accord is to strengthen the soundness of banks and prudent banking practices within Basle committee member countries. Therefore, the Basle Accord will affect directly Jordanian banks operating in the EC countries, while of course banks operating in Jordan are governed by the CBJ regulations.

The Basle Accord seeks to establish a common definition for capital, assign weights to different types of assets based in their degree of risk, and set a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 8 percent to weighted risk assets to be achieved by end 1992. These standards constitute a good example to follow and the CBJ has in fact been moving in such a direction.

However, there is one main negative impact of the Basle Accord which is expected to affect Jordanian banks, particularly those operating in the EC coun-

tries. This impact related to considering lending by banks to non-OECD countries risky, which will make lending to non-OECD countries rather costly and unprofitable to banks. The only exception outside the OECD countries was made only in relation to Saudi Arabia.

Q: Does the CBJ have specific requirements for applicants wanting to issue credit cards? Do you currently have applications requesting to issue credit cards? Will you give any more licenses for the issuance of credit cards?

A: The CBJ has recently approved for a number of banks to issue credit cards, provided that they meet certain conditions and requirements. These requirements include, among other things, the bank's compliance with the rules and regulations specified by the CBJ foreign control law, the credit worthiness of credit card holders, and the financial position of the bank. This comes with the monetary policy objectives of continuing to ease the foreign currency exchange regulations.

Jordanian bank are entitled to obtain a license for issuing credit cards as long as they meet certain conditions that ought to be satisfied prior to issuing credit cards.

Italy and Jordan join forces for development

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star



THE FRUITS of a successful cooperation project between Italy and Jordan will go on display at the Philadelphia Hotel on Saturday 12 December when the Salt Handicraft Training Center opens its weaving and ceramics exhibition.

The exhibits are from the pilot unit for ceramics and weaving which gives graduates of the center the chance to develop their professional skills in both production and marketing.

The Salt Center is a joint project between the Queen Noor Foundation, the Salt Development Corporation and the Italian Technical Cooperation Company (Coteco). Its aim is to train young Jordanians in skills which are traditional in Jordan but which can benefit from the expertise and modern developments in handicraft production from Italian experts. Weaving, ceramics and silk screen printing were the founding skills at the center.

Anyone familiar with the modern Italian combination of a thriving tourist industry and a richly varied, and commercially successful handicraft tradition can understand why Italians are the ideal partners for such a venture.

The project was originally intended to run for three years, was extended for a further year, and plans for an expansion of the existing weaving and ceramics sections into new crafts such as glass and jewelry making are now under discussion.

All those involved with the school consider it to be a remarkable success story. The students at Salt have delighted their teachers with their enthusiasm and their artistic skills as they follow the center's three year training course. Just as importantly, the first graduates, who finished their courses in 1991, are now all working.

Some have jobs in private sector ceramics factories, some are self-employed, others are teaching handicrafts, four have moved on as teachers at another Italian-Jordanian project, the newly established Madaba Mosaics School.

Staff at the school have developed their own textbooks for the program, and Coteco is so happy with the project it has produced a 28-minute video, which highlights aspects of Jordan's development and of the Salt School in particular.

Coteco is also the Italian partner in a new program with the Amman University College for Applied Engineering, for which the Italian government is providing funding of around \$2 million.

The University offers courses in applied engineering in six departments — electrical, chemical, mechanical, civil, scientific and cultural, plus a training center. Students have a choice of two-year diploma or four-year bachelors courses.

The Italian contribution covers equipment supply, technical assistance from Italian experts, training in Italy for Jordanian instructors and the production of teaching materials to strengthen the quality of courses offered for electrical engineering students. The university is contributing mainly staff and logistical support.

During the life of the project, which is due to run from 1991 to 1994, five new fully equipped laboratories will be developed, covering electrical measurements, electrical machines, generation control, an automation system laboratory and an advanced computer laboratory.

In another part of Amman a third Italian contribution to Jordan's development is underway at the Jordanian Italian Institute of Archaeological Sciences.

The Institute has now started a highly specialized course in architectural photogrammetry, remote sensing, computerized registration and management of cultural resources, and the history of ancient architecture. It is designed for staff at the Department of Antiquities and the University of Jordan Faculty of Archaeology, and is part of the overall Italian government-supported Restoration of Monuments Project at Jerash.

The course is being taught by a number of Italian specialists, all of them professors or lecturers at the Universities of Torino or Padova, led by Professor Giorgio Gullini of Torino, one of Italy's leading archaeologists who has worked regularly in the Middle East for over 30 years.

The new skills learned by Jordanian archaeologists during the course are designed as a very practical contribution to the protection and preservation of Jordan's archaeological heritage, beginning but certainly not ending with Jerash. ■

Next week in The Star
Special Christmas Supplement
Call 648-298

Palestinian health initiatives:

Local autonomy, regional cooperation

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

AS PALESTINIANS wait for the ultimate fruit of peace, an independent Palestinian state coming out of a possible peace agreement between the Arabs and Israel, a proposal has been forwarded calling for independently-run, Palestinian health services in the Arab Occupied Territories and regional health coordination.

The proposed program, 'New Initiatives in Health: Planning for Transition and Promotion of Regional Cooperation', was submitted to the World Health Organization in September by The Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East and the University of Harvard Institute for International Development (IID).

While addressing urgent health problems faced in the Occupied Territories, participants to the proposal insist that there is "both the need and the occasion" to plan the transfer of authority and responsibility for health services, while at the same time promoting new opportunities for broad regional cooperation in health.

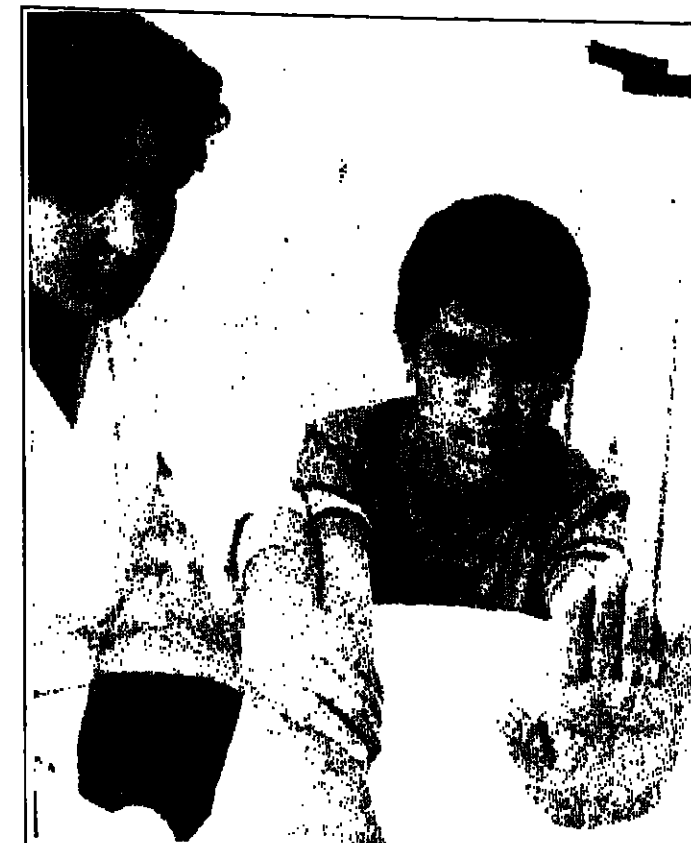
The proposal to undertake this work is the culmination of a process begun more than a year ago at Harvard University. The IID describes its function in the program as "an external and neutral source of momentum and technical collaboration", aiming to convene the participants, provide the technical collaborators and serve as a conduit for the provision of financial resources.

The project has brought together health professionals, health planners and health economists from the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, Jordan and Egypt. Leading Palestinian and Israeli individuals include Dr. Anis Al Qaq of Jerusalem's Health Services Council, Dr. Farouk Abdul Rahim of Al Makassed Hospital, Dr. Dan Michaeli and Dr. Itamar Shalit of the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center. A group of senior specialists taken from each location has been selected to function as a Steering Committee.

Initiatives for the proposed program will require financial support for a three-year period, totaling \$2 million. Participants intend that by the end of the three years, the program will have effected a smooth transition in the transfer of authority over health services in the West Bank and Gaza, complemented by all necessary institutional and human resources infrastructures. Participants also hope to make progress in institutionalizing regional health cooperation.

The program plans to move ahead in a sequence consistent with the peace process, and to deal with the most immediate and urgent of health issues. A starting point will be assisting the institutional development of the newly-established Higher Council for Health (HCH), which was established in order to become the central body for health in the West Bank and Gaza.

The HCH aims to plan health programs, establish an information system, channel public resources and international assistance, guide cooperation between



The program aims at giving Palestinians a say in the running of their own health centers

donors from the private and public sectors and assure overall sustainability and quality of health services and medical care.

Should the program be implemented, added activities for the HCH will be to upgrade existing health facilities and management, by drawing on regional and international expertise and by liaising with the three existing providers of health services in the West Bank and Gaza: The public and private sectors and UNRWA.

Through coordination between the HCH and the other regional participants to the program, it is hoped that a National Health Plan will be implemented for the Occupied Territories. This plan will incorporate a health data system, while setting the priorities for public health and health care activities and offering a Health Finance Planning Model for the World Bank. The final plan is for a feasibility study for a Palestinian medical school.

The proposed program gives particular prominence to the importance of regional cooperation in such issues, as well as outlining the benefits to be gained. Its advocates argue that regional cooperation and coordination can help to control infectious diseases through vaccination programs, as resulted from this year's Rift Valley polio outbreak, as well as tackling other regional issues such as environmental pollution, the establishment of regional emergency and disaster services, blood and organ banks, research and education.

From this point on, the proposed program pledges to seek ways of institutionalizing regional cooperation so that it can continue and build as time goes by. Its ultimate goal is the establishment of a private Middle East Center for Health Policy, having an international board of directors, a regional executive committee and a rotating leadership, to be based in a major Middle Eastern city. ■

Economy Briefs

Soft Loan

● Jordan has rescheduled its \$10.5 million soft loan with the United Kingdom. The new arrangement will allow Jordan to resume debt service on 31 December 2003 in 20 installments. The agreement was signed last week by Finance Minister Mr Basil Jardaneh and the UK ambassador to Jordan Mr Patrick Evers.

VAT

● The Finance Ministry has made it clear that the new Value Added Tax (VAT) will not result in increasing current taxes. VAT will only incorporate existing regulations into a common law, a ministry source noted. The new VAT amendment submitted to Parliament is expected to be voted in soon.

FTZ Zarqa

● The fourth phase of development in Zarqa Free Trade Zone (FTZ) has been awarded to a local contractor. The contract agreement's provisions are to lay down modern amenities and an infrastructure in a 350 dunum lot in Zarqa. Completion of the FTZ project is expected at the end of 1993.

Survey

● A recent field survey by Hilmi Al Asmer depicting readership patterns of English and Arabic publications in Amman, suggests interesting findings about reading habits in the metropolis. Survey results found society/film/TV and women's publications to be highest on the demand curve, while political, religious, and cultural publications were, respectively, relegated to lower ranks by national preference. Mr Tayser Jum'a, an executive at the Jordanian Distribution Agency, noted that Jordanians are an active, discerning and intelligent readers — a fact corroborated by the \$25 titles currently circulating on Jordan's market. Popular magazines with a wide audience, Mr Jum'a said, are expatriate Arabic publications with a journalistic tradition. Such magazines he added, have a loyal following.

Duty income

● Income generated from duty imposed on imports is expected to pass the JD-400-million mark for 1992, twice the projected income for this sector in the national budget for 1992. Income for the first 11 months of this year was registered at JD 389.4 million, while last year's was JD 204 million for the same period.

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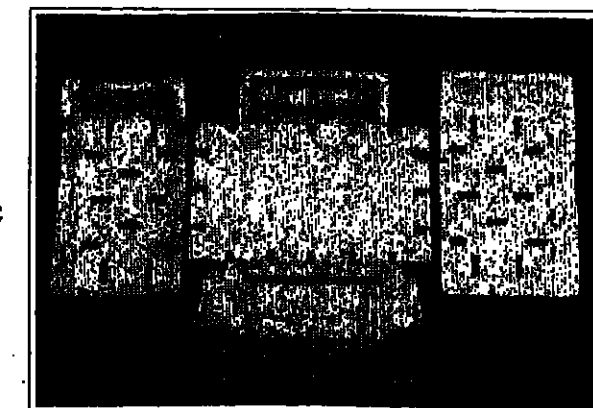
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Pioneers in Jordanian industry

Special advertising survey

Juma Plastic Co.

A local company with its eyes on the world

JUMA PLASTIC Co. was established in 1979 as a limited shareholding company, owned by three major shareholders with a starting capital of JD 120,000. However, Mr Mohammad Mahmoud Juma decided to turn the company into a private corporation owned by himself, which he did in 1982.

By injecting an additional JD 80,000 into the corporation, Mr Juma was able to maximize his factory's production level. It now specializes in the production of plastic bags with printed logos, as used by department stores, restaurants, hotels, as well as other outlets.

Future expansion includes plans to introduce Blow Molding Equipment to make various containers for shampoos, toothpastes and others.

The company produces almost 400 tons of plastic materials annually, all of which is consumed by the local market.

A stepping stone towards exports was achieved in the past few months, when Romania be-



Mr Khalil Juma

came the company's foreign customer.

Mr Khalil Juma, the general manager of the company hopes to penetrate other markets by banking on his expertise. Slowly but surely, he says, the company's position on quality and price has proved to be a selling point abroad.

Low and high density materials are both imported from Qatar and Saudi Arabia respectively. Mr

Khalil noted that since the price of the granules needed for manufacturing are the same internationally, he personally prefers to buy the materials from Arab exporters.

Mr Khalil says that Jordan had a major transitional shift, after the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in 1988. This change provided better incentives for local industries to thrive and to compete against imported products.

But he adds that he was disappointed by the limited available facilities and the rigid official restrictions which hinder enthusiastic investors. He says there should be more incentives and motivations from the government to encourage investments.

Finally, he appeals to all Jordanians to change their perceptions of Jordanian made products, which have improved in terms of quality. Jordanians, he adds, should re-evaluate the quality of such products to give them the chance to rise to international levels.

Polystyrene: An important material in industry

MOHAMMAD ASAAD Industrial Corporation was set up in December 1982. The factory is situated in Central Ghor Valley, four kilometers from the town of Al Karameh.

With a starting capital of JD 450,000, the factory started production at a capacity of 15 million polystyrene containers annually using the finest production and storage machinery.

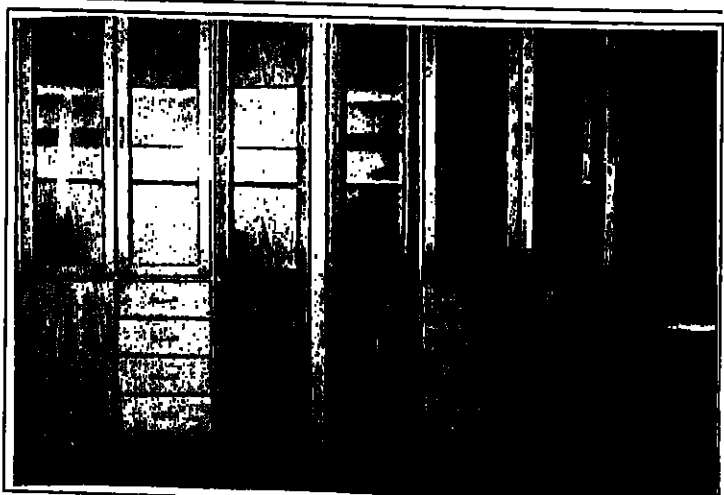
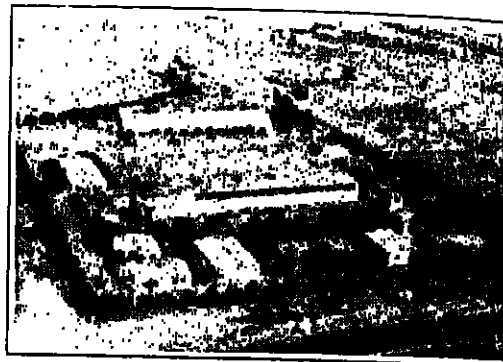
The corporation, which has a staff of 45 employees and workers, has expanded its line of production to include construction, agricultural and industrial material in order to meet the needs of the country's booming economy.

Since construction is considered the Kingdom's most important sector, the factory was geared to this sector's needs and is now producing a variety of building material consisting of hollow blocks, insulation sheets and polystyrene granules needed for the manufacturing of light cemented mixtures available to engineers and contractors at all times.

The corporation has also maintained interest in the agricultural sector by producing various products needed by farmers.

These include ventilated vegetable and fruit boxes, which sustain produce freshness, especially export oriented, and polystyrene granules to protect soils and to disintegrate hard soils to make way for the passage of air and water to the plants roots. In addition, the company manufactures indoor plant pots and tropigation trays.

In the industrial area, the company manufactures polystyrene building blocks used in the making of refrigerators, freezers, refrigerated trucks. Polystyrene is popular in industry because it is a highly efficient thermal insulator and can be used in packaging fragile and heat-sensitive materials. Other uses include disposable cups, plates, trays, as well as the preservation of food intended for export.



MABCO Danish quality, Jordanian made

MR MAHMOUD Al Khalili decided to go into the furniture business back in 1978. His aim was to bring to the market the very best of Danish furniture, which is made from the finest oak wood.

His business thrived as he imported selected pieces and in a few months fine Danish oak wood became an accepted product that met the taste of Jordanian buyers.

Today, his store, MABCO, attracts buyers from all over the Kingdom because of the quality and affordability of its products.

Then in 1989, Mr Khalili set up his own factory marking an important development in the local furniture-making industry and bringing attention to the team of Jordanian makers who worked day and night to produce the same quality and affordability people were used to.

The strong relationship that Mr Al-Khalili developed with the Danish market proved useful. They provided MABCO's designs, know-how, raw materials as well as the accessories.

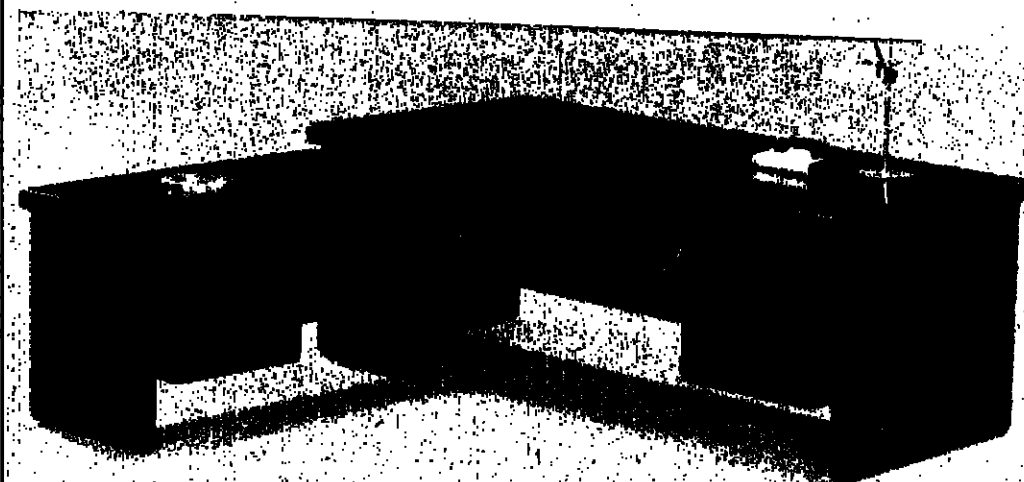
Mr Al Khalili believes his factory produces quality furniture which meets the distinguished tastes of all kinds of people. Expansion projects are a major target in the near future in order to keep up with the demands of discerning people.



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Jordanian exporters look further east

THOUGH PHOSPHATE exports have fallen by 33 per cent in the past three years, slashing Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) profits from a record JD 109 million in 1989 to just JD 33.1 million in 1991, the company is still the world's third biggest phosphate exporter.

"Phosphate remains the oil of Jordan," says Mr Thabet Taher, JPMC's newly-appointed general manager.

The boon to JPMC offered by Jordan's 45 per cent devaluation in 1989 was short-lived as the company's traditional eastern European markets collapsed.

In the late 1980s, eastern European countries bought more than 30 per cent of Jordan's phosphate exports. But these countries' shortage of hard currency, combined with ambiguity in some of them over who actually owned previously state-run phosphate processing plants, cut Jordan's exports in 1991 to 0.58 million tons, from 2.3 million tons in 1989.

To make matters worse, this decline coincided with the Gulf crisis and the disruption caused by United Nations-backed inspections of all vessels entering Jordan's only port, Aqaba.

These factors contributed to a fall in the company's total phosphate exports to 4.2 million tons in 1991 from 6.4 million tons in 1989. And this year shows little

sign of improvement. Just 3.12 million tons have been shipped in the first nine months of 1992.

However, the downward trend is by no means unique to Jordan. The International Fertilizer Industry Association reports that world phosphate exports fell by 29 per cent between 1989 and 1991 and the group forecasts that no substantial recovery is likely before the end of the century.

The JPMC's response to the prospect of tighter markets has been to shift trade towards Asia and develop a strategy to raise production of phosphate-based fertilizers in co-operation with its trading partners.

Contracts with India, for example, have partly replaced already the void left by eastern Europe. Last year Jordan shipped 1.3 million tons of phosphate to India and contracts for 1.6 million tons have been signed for 1992 — making it the biggest importer of Jordanian phosphate.

Towards the end of 1991, JPMC signed a \$100 million joint venture with India's Southern Petrochemicals Corporation to produce an annual 200,000 tons of phosphoric acid for the Indian market. A new processing plant, which will be 60 per cent owned by the Indian company and 40 per cent by JPMC, will be opened in 1995 at Shideya, southern Jordan.

This site, the most recent of the JPMC's three mines, started operations in 1988 and has 790 million tons of confirmed quality phosphate reserves — some 83 per cent of Jordan's total known reserves.

A similar deal was finalized earlier this year with a Mitsubishi-led consortium of four Japanese companies which will take a 60 per cent share in a \$360 million compound fertilizer plant, also planned to open in 1995, with JPMC and the Jordan-based Arab Potash Company (APC) each taking a 20 per cent share.

Mr Taher sees the future lying in such joint ventures. "Countries now prefer to import finished products rather than raw phosphate," he says. "It is cheaper and less damaging to their environment."

Mr Kaazuhiko Sakishima, general manager of the Mitsubishi Corporation's Amman branch and liaison officer between JPMC and the Japanese consortium, says that the plant to be built in Aqaba will produce 300,000 tons



Phosphate mines: Looking for new markets

of fertilizer for Japan, or about 10 per cent of its entire consumption.

Both joint ventures will be built on "duty-free" zones in Jordan, which offer investors tax exemption on profits, exemption from duty on imported machinery and a holiday from income of property tax for up to 12 years.

APC, which is Jordan's second biggest exporter, has meanwhile emerged largely unaffected by the geopolitical shocks of the past three years and saw sales rise to \$130 million in 1991 from \$130 million the previous year.

Miss Miranda Batshon, APC's marketing manager, says the

company has profited from a rise in demand from its Far Eastern markets, particularly China, which raised its demand 1st year for Jordanian potash by 47 per cent.

As well as holding a 20 per cent share in the Jordan-Japanese fertilizer plant in Aqaba, APC has begun a two-phase plan to raise annual production to 2.2 million tons from the present 1.4 million tons a year by the end of the century.

Mr Taher says Jordan's phosphates production will rise to 9.6 million tons by 2000.

Financial Times

Jordan Petroleum refinery Past achievements and future outlook

JORDAN PETROLEUM Refinery Co. Ltd was founded in 1956 and started its commercial production in 1960. The company has a monopoly agreement with the Jordanian government which is valid for 50 years starting from 1957. According to that agreement the company is considered to be the sole party for "investing in and operating oil refineries and derivative industries also to market, store and distribute all kinds of refinery products."

In order to meet local market requirements from all kinds of products, the company implemented three expansion projects in order to increase its capacity and to add more flexibility to the existing units. The size and type of units incorporated in each project were decided in light of the market demand figures in the target year and after checking the feasibility of the suggested units.

In the early 1980s the refinery received the units included in its 3rd expansion project (which is the latest in the expansion projects). These units increased the refinery's capacity by about 150 percent and added sizable flexibility to the production plans due to the conversion units included in the project. Some of the old units were stopped due to the adequacy of the new units in meeting local market demands.

These units are operated only for short intervals to meet peak load requirements or when the new units are shut down for turnarounds. It is estimated that the refinery at its current capacity will be capable of meeting local market requirements until the year 2000.

In addition to oil refining company activities include products transport and distribution to all consumers. Since 1977, the company has begun producing lube-oils with the brand name "JOPETROL". These oils are blended in the refinery with base oils and additives imported from outside Jordan. The company produces part of the local market requirements of LPG cylinder as well.

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Viscosity Index	160
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Colour	red
Flash point °C (open)	190
Density at 15° C Kg/L	0.873

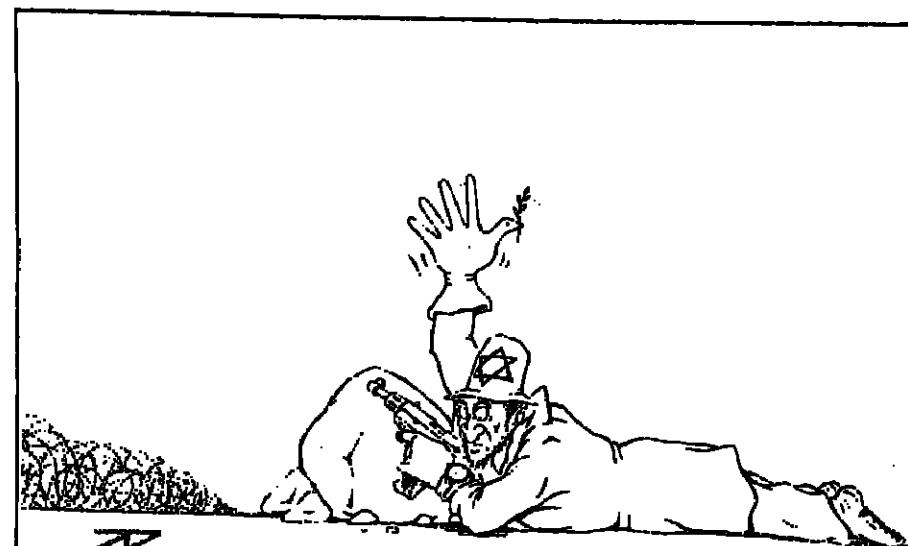
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Our Say....

Restoring life to Somalia

THE US-led operation in Somalia, which was launched this week, deserves worldwide backing and support in spite of what has been said about America's dubious objectives in the Horn of Africa. The tragedy of this Arab and Muslim country has gone too far. The entire nation has been subjected to one of history's most horrific experiences.

Until this latest UN-engineered mission, the world has done too little to save Somalia's hungry citizens. Over recent months, we have silently — and shamelessly — watched the starving millions of this ill-fated country succumb to their deaths. Their suffering will stain the annals of humanity for generations to come.

Arabs and Muslim countries, especially the rich and affluent ones, must be singled out for their disgraceful record on the Somali plight. Their contribution to international effort has been negligent and their political and economic clout has remained impotent in international arenas.

When it comes to saving famished babies and bewildered mothers, humanitarian considerations take precedence over fanciful political pontification. Ask any Somali mother who has seen her whole family die of starvation before her watery eyes, or an orphaned child left to fend for himself in inhospitable territory.

It is not too late for Arabs and Muslims to come to the aid of the unfortunate Somalis. If there are doubts about America's intervention there, then let us join the Americans, under the banner of the UN, and make sure that the Somalis can soon resume the running of their own country.

Having said this, the United States cannot ignore the similarities between the affliction of the Somalis and the plight of Bosnians in Bosnia-Herzegovina in former Yugoslavia. There too a nation is being systematically wiped out through the abhorrent Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing. The world has watched idly the massacre of Muslims and Croats and only paid lip service when actual intervention was needed. The United States cannot justify intervention in one place and deny it in another, when innocent people are dying in their thousands at the hands of a blood-thirsty enemy.

If we accept that the United Nations has become an extension of US foreign policy, then we have to work collectively to limit this aberration. But until we do that, we should make use of the fact that the United States remains one of the few countries that has influence and leverage over world affairs. If we can prevent negative US involvement — like in the case of Iraq — then fine, but if we can turn this huge and powerful country into a tool for positive engagement — like in Somalia — then even better.

Somalis and Bosnians have reached a degree of despair where they would side with the devil if he would save them. Now their hopes are with the United States. Notwithstanding the irony of the situation, saving the life of a child from a premature and ugly death is more deserving than a thousand condemnations, or lamentations.

Investing in AIPAC blunders

By Muhammad I. Ayish

LAST OCTOBER, David Steiner, president of the influential American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), decided to quit his office as

head of the pro-Israeli lobby group after he was secretly tape-recorded boasting about his ties with former US Secretary of State James Baker and President-elect Bill Clinton. Steiner told New York businessman Harry Katz, who was about to make a contribution to AIPAC, that he was negotiating with the Clinton campaign over possible appointments, and that he had "cut a deal" with Mr. Baker on US aid to Israel. (See *The Star* 19 November).

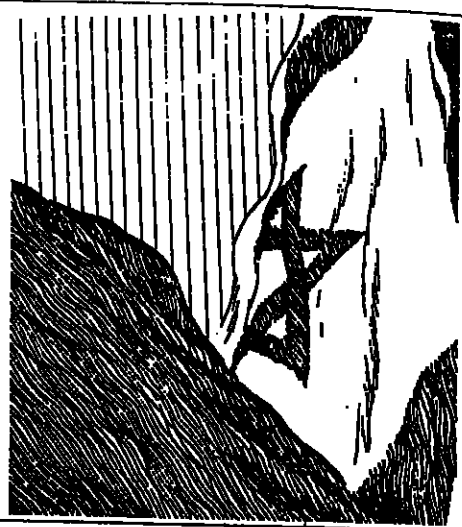
Although the Steiner affair went relatively unnoticed by news media in the United States and in the Arab World, the case seems to carry significant implications for the current and future status of AIPAC on the American scene. For one thing, this affair appears to present Arab countries and Arab American groups with ample opportunities to bring more sanity and rationality to debates on US Middle East policies in America, long stifled by the aggressive approaches of the group.

Recently, the *Washington Post* reported complaints by some people about AIPAC having closed its ears even to Israeli moderates, focusing instead on cultivating key members of the House and Senate to ensure the flow of aid to the Jewish state and the minimal acquisition of US arms by Arab states. Last August, former US ambassador Andrew Killgore called AIPAC "a night flower" which blooms in the dark and dies in the sunlight, "... and with 'suffi-

cient exposure, AIPAC will go out of business."

The recent self-inflicted AIPAC blunder comes on the heels of a series of fiascos, most outstanding of which was the group's

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antagonizing of President Bush over the \$10 billion loan guarantees for Israel. AIPAC's arrogance has been a source of discomfort even to Israeli officials themselves, who confided time and again about the lobby group losing its sense of proportion. Incited by AIPAC's unjustifiably excessive zeal over promoting Israeli interests in America, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did not hesitate to criticize the committee whose behavior, he believed, was harming US-Israeli relations.

Yet, the most provocative aspect of AIPAC relates to its behavior in US national and state elections, where pro-Israeli candidates qualify for its financial contributions while those with even-handed approaches to the Middle East problem are discredited through adoption of McCarthyist techniques of smearing and blacklisting.

Recently, seven leading US figures filed

Continued on page 9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sales tax, inflation and other worries

To the editor:

I would like to refer to a news item appearing in *The Star* (12 November) revealing the worries and anxieties expressed by Dr Obaidat, president of the Consumer Protection Society, regarding rumors rather than facts connected to the government's intention to impose the sales tax. As far as this matter is concerned, the man in the streets of Amman is anxious to hear the report straight from the horse's mouth. As far as I am concerned, the government cannot afford to make radical changes which will backfire.

Another issue raised by Dr Obaidat is inflation. It is natural that during a period of inflation, the purchasing power of money decreases. Inflation reflects our state of mind, a desire to have more than we can afford or produce. Inflation is also caused by labor, which keeps demanding wage hikes larger than the system can afford. The result in simple version, "too much money chasing too few goods." The threats of inflation are many and diverse.

Inflation is an international problem and there is very little we can do to restrain it. Wage increases is a dangerous matter, and will not rectify an unhealthy or undesirable economic condition. Sales and excise taxes are regressive taxes that take a smaller percentage of income as income increases.

We know from our study of economics that if we exercise choice we must have alternatives from which to choose. The alternative to regressive taxes is progressive taxes. As a citizen's income increases, progressive taxes take a larger percentage of that income.

I wish to conclude my letter with the words of Abraham Lincoln who once said: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me."

George N. Sali,
P.O. Box 990
Amman, Jordan.

Publisher

&

Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

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The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Sudan's Minister of Agriculture

'With the wrong policies you reap nothing'

By Ben Wedeman

IN 1991 Sudan had a record wheat harvest of 850,000 tons. This year the harvest is expected to top one million tons. Meanwhile, Sudan's sorghum harvest now well exceeds local demand, and the country has also become self-sufficient in faba bean.

Sudan's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Professor Ahmed Ali Geneif spoke about this promising change of fortunes.

Question: Sudan is celebrating World Food Day. Why is this day special for Sudan?

Answer: The agricultural potential of the Sudan is recognized as a very immense resource. Sudan was nominated as one of the three countries that could solve the world's food problem for the future. At certain times we are short of producing our own food. In the last three years we have made substantial progress as far as food production is concerned.

We have obtained wheat self-sufficiency, and we even have a surplus we can use to help solve food problems in the countries around us. This makes World Food Day a special occasion for the Sudan, because it marks the realization of confidence in our resources and in our ability to exploit these resources for the benefit of the people of Sudan as well as humanity at large, and actually gives us the hope that we can play a major role in food production and in solving the food problems of the world.

Q: In February 1992 the Sudanese government introduced a wide range of market reforms as part of its Three Year Salvation Program. How does this program affect agriculture?

A: Definitely agriculture has benefited from the change from a controlled to a market economy. Because it increased the prices of agricultural products, it has promoted marketing and opened the door for the export of agricultural products. It has removed many of the constraints stemming from intervention in the economy.

This is reflected in the horizontal and vertical expansion of agricultural production. Now we are adopting our policies so we can sustain our agricultural production and development.



Sudan: Now self-sufficient

Q: Many people have said that the reason for the good harvests of the past two years has been favorable weather. What happens if the weather is not good?

A: Weather is a very important factor in agricultural production. It is true that, fortunately, this year and last year we have had very good weather for the production of both winter and summer crops.

Of course we decided that the agricultural policies needed to be changed and so the government has put a top priority on agriculture, which is very clear in the whole economic program. This priority is also clearly reflected in the availability of financing from the agricultural bank and from the other government and commercial banks.

You may have good weather, but with the wrong policies you reap nothing, and we had many times good weather, we had good rainy seasons, but no production.

We are now also adopting and utilizing scientific methods of production. We are emphasizing vertical expansion through the transfer of technology to farmers and adapting the technological packages recommended by agricultural researchers.

Q: Having achieved food self-

sufficiency, what is the next step for the Sudan?

A: The next step will be to continue expansion of our agricultural production, because we know we have an obligation not only to achieve self-sufficiency but also to contribute to solving food problems (elsewhere) and to creating a surplus so that we can diversify and increase our exports to earn foreign currency. We also will need to improve our industry so that we can realize added value on our agricultural production. That will be a major step in the future. In most cases we are now exporting raw materials. If we improve our manufacturing and processing we can realize the added value and then reap better revenues.

Q: For many years it was said that the Sudan would be the bread basket of Africa and the Arab World. Why has this dream been so difficult to realize?

A: First, lack of political stability, lack of any stability in general. There can be no development in the absence of stability. In all the years since independence Sudan has been in a state of instability. This was reflected in the lack of continuity of policies, planning and implementation. Secondly, lack of the right macro-economic policies. You cannot succeed in exploiting your agricultural resources if you don't have the right macro-economic policies. Thirdly, lack of attractive investment policies. This is also due to the inefficiency of government bodies.

A: What role can international organizations such as the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) play in contributing to Sudan's efforts to develop its agricultural sector?

Q: I think the interaction with ICARDA is very vital. We have tested that. We have had a very fruitful experience with this organization, especially in faba beans. An important role is the interaction with researchers and scientific exchange, because this is the foundation of agricultural development. What has been achieved for example through our contact with ICARDA and CIMMYT (the Mexico-based International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat) in the field of wheat is very clear and is evidence of what can be achieved by interacting properly in very well defined programs.

We also value interaction with these organizations in agricultural policies and exchange of experience with similar countries, especially in view of the chance through our free market economy.

Investing in AIPAC blunders

Continued from page 8

a lawsuit against the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) for failing to fully investigate and penalize AIPAC for violation of the 1971 Federal Election Campaigns Act. The plaintiffs stated in their lawsuit that AIPAC should be registered as a Political Action Committee (PAC) and all pro-Israeli PACs (which total over 100 all over the United States) should be treated as a single PAC with total campaign contributions to a given candidate limited to \$100,000 per election cycle — as opposed to the \$250,000 given to a single candidate in the past.

AIPAC's crisis has been brought about mainly by changing world and Middle East environments, which have left the group so outmoded and outdistanced in thinking even by the Israelis themselves. Extremist and obstinate since its foundation in 1954

by I.L. (Syn) Kenen, AIPAC appears to have lost its relevance as an unchallenged pro-Israeli group, employing obsolete concepts and techniques to achieve its objectives.

The group is losing ground under pressure from three sources. First, the break-up of the former Soviet Union made AIPAC's long-time claims of an impending Communist threat to US interests in the Middle East look meaningless. The pro-Israeli lobby group was always citing the Soviet menace as a basis for soliciting economic and military aid to the Jewish state and for obstructing the flow of arms to Arab countries.

Second, the showdown with the Bush administration over the \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel brought to the surface many long-hidden concerns among Americans over AIPAC's influence and preferential treatment to Washington.

Americans are becoming more willing to speak out against the excesses of arrogance and conspiratorial techniques used by the group in handling dissents when it comes to public discussions of US policies in the Middle East.

Third, the launching of the peace process under American sponsorship has also exposed AIPAC's allegations of Arab belligerency and Palestinian terrorism. The fact that the Israelis and the Arabs are meeting face to face to discuss peace did not appease AIPAC hardliners, who have been bent on monopolizing public debates on the Middle East in America by suppressing Arab voices.

The opportunities presented by AIPAC's state of confusion should be utilized, not to enable Arabs to take over the monopoly game in America, but to bring balance and equity to public discussions of the Arab world in the United States. This would place quite a burden on the Arab states and Arab American groups to stand up to the challenge without underestimating AIPAC's influence.

In fact, the lobby group has in the 1980s quadrupled its staff to more than 150 and increased its membership to 55,000 households. Its membership-financed budget has expanded from more than \$1.2 million in 1980 to \$12 million in 1991, according to the *Washington Post*. As Thomas Friedman says, "reports of AIPAC demise are premature."

Muhammad Ayish is an associate professor at the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Yarmouk University.



Hindu militants stormed the disputed mosque-temple site in the Indian city of Ayodhya on Sunday and demolished it completely ignoring a political crisis that threatens to throw the country into civil strife. Many world countries condemned the attack including Jordan.



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Iraqi musicians save the day

By Mary Denis

AMMAN'S concert-goers have grown accustomed to first-class performances given by Iraqi musicians. Last week's classical music performance by six Iraqi musicians who work at the NMC and live in Amman was no exception. It showed once again not only the musicians' talent, virtuosity and flair for serious music, but also demonstrated the individualism of the participating musicians, their professional resourcefulness and resilience.

Having only one day at their disposal to rehearse for the concert, the musicians prepared a vast and laborious program featuring 14 composers, representing various styles of music ranging from 17th to late 20th century compositions.

Such immediacy was dictated by the last minute cancellation of a scheduled duo concert by fellow musicians held up in Iraq. In order to save the situation and "to cheer up NMC director Mr. Kefah Fakhoury", they stepped in to fill in the shoes of their Iraqi colleagues.

"Individually, all six of us are in great shape. But as a group we had little time to rehearse, so it was tough for us to tune into each other," confessed erudite pianist Otai Haddad, who holds a Master's degree in piano from Russia and whose lyrical style and passion at the keyboard have earned him the reputation of a pianist who gives all he's got.

Otaï is well-known in Amman for his solo performances, although this time he appeared as an accompanist only, giving Sulafa Haddad, his sister and keyboard colleague a chance to



display her qualities as a soloist.

Sulafa, a graduate of the Iraqi School of Music and of the College of Fine Arts in Baghdad, lives and teaches piano in Amman. She also accompanies ballet classes at the National Music Conservatory.

Aram Zarasian, a violinist who holds a Master's degree from Russia and is currently concert master of the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory, is a restlessly searching artist who lives for and through music. "Music is my life," says Aram. He teaches violin to very advanced students. "I am basically a performer. This is my profession. Teaching is my job."

Samir Ammoury, principle violinist of the NMC Orchestra, a graduate of the Baghdad Institute of Music, is at present a faculty member of the NMC Orchestra.

All Shawkil, clarinet, and Farhad Wattar, cello, are both faculty members and principal players at the NMC. They both hold Master's degrees from Bulgaria and Russia respectively.

Mr. Fakhoury praised the six musicians for showing

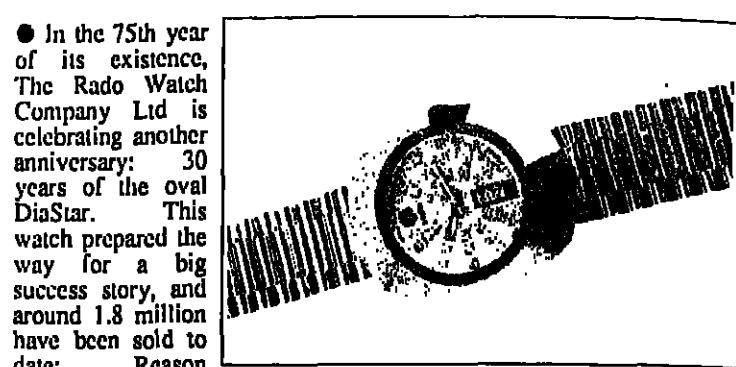
professionalism and dedication to their art. He also complemented their capabilities as a team. "They are an asset to the country," he pointed out.

But as all the musicians agreed, they would like to move forward to explore new territories. With a hefty load of teaching, though, they find themselves unable to practice four hours a day, which is standard practice to stay in good form.

They added that they would also have liked to undertake more challenging tasks, such as giving more solo recitals and playing more chamber music. The musicians recently had the splendid chance to play with the Apple Hill Chamber Music Ensemble from the USA, which they thoroughly enjoyed. "It was an exhilarating experience for us," said Haddad. "We would like to carry on doing concerts with visiting musicians more often."

The musicians all agreed that ideally there should be an institution which understands and takes care of the needs and interests of musicians. "I must admit that the NMC and Mr. Fakhoury are very helpful, so is the Queen Noor Foundation. But we want to stretch ourselves more," Haddad added.

It is common knowledge that musicians are a hardy breed. They adapt easily to any living conditions, provided that their special world of music is filled with melodies, offering limitless exploration and improvisation. ■



● In the 75th year of its existence, The Rado Watch Company Ltd is celebrating another anniversary: 30 years of the oval DiaStar. This watch prepared the way for a big success story, and around 1.8 million have been sold to date.

Reason enough for the company to launch a special model of the original DiaStar in a limited edition for the Jubilee year. An extra feature of the exclusive Jubilee model is the dial, which is set with 30 glittering diamonds, symbolizing 30 years of Rado DiaStar. It is a piece of jewelry that becomes all the more desirable when one knows that only 1000 examples of the Rado DiaStar "Limited Jubilee Edition" are on sale world-wide. This special model is available solely in the gentlemen's version with day/date display. Each Jubilee model has its personal number engraved on the case back. Additional characteristics of its exclusivity are the certificate of authenticity and a special Jubilee box made from the finest wood.

The Jubilee watch with the diamond star is available at selected Rado concessionaries, but only for a short time — the number produced is strictly limited to 1000 numbered pieces.



● Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a dinner reception was held at Kan Zaman at the end of the Wadi Rum Balloon Rally, to honor the participants and organizers of the event. Royal Jordanian presented the awards to all those who participated and organized the rally.

Mr. Chavki Ayoub, general manager of Hotel Intercontinental Jordan, was presented with an award for the hotel's role in organizing and catering for the rally's guests.

Agenda

FILMS

● 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves' will be featured at the American Center on Thursday 10 December at 5:00 pm. On Tuesday 15 December will be ABC News Weekly Highlights and the MacNeil Lehrer News Hour, at 5:00 pm at the center's premises.

● As part of the Shakespeare festival, 'Hamlet' will be shown at the British Council on Monday 14 December, with Mel Gibson taking the title role.

● ... also at the British Council on Wednesday 16 December, 'West Side Story', a modern musical Romeo and Juliet, will be screened.

● The French Cultural Center will be showing 'Les Enfants du Paradis' on Monday 14 December at 8:00 pm.

EXHIBITIONS

● Three artists from Gaza are

currently displaying their work at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Fayez Al Hasani, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawa will be awaiting your company at the foundation's gallery until 24 December.

● Under the patronage of HE Dr Juan Manuel Cabrera, Spanish Ambassador to Jordan, the Spanish Cultural Center will open an art exhibition entitled 'Models of Jordanian Art, 1992'. The opening will be on Saturday 12 December at 6:00 pm.

LECTURES

● 'Madabah and Late Antique City Planning' will be the focus of Dr CJ Lenzen's lecture on Monday 14 December at 7:00 pm, at the FA Center.

● Mr. Riad al Khouri will be giving a short talk at the British Council and leading a discussion on 'Shakespeare and the Arts' on Saturday 12 December, starting at 7:00 pm.

FIELD TRIP

● On Thursday 10 December, the Friends of Archaeology are taking a trip to Wadi Rum at 3:00 pm. Congregation will be at the Amra Hotel parking lot.

QUIZ NIGHT

● The Star will co-sponsor the Aramex-Mas Quiz Night on 19 December at the Plaza Hotel. The quiz will start at 8:00 pm. Tickets are for JD 8.5 and are available at New York New York, Aramex International, MEBA Ltd, Plaza Hotel and Frostles.

● The faculty of Economics at the UJ invites you to visit the first "Accountants week" to be held from 13 till 16 December.

Dave Barry does Japan (Part Four):

Discovering traditional Japanese art

By Dave Barry

AFTER SEVERAL days in Tokyo, we decided to acquire an in-depth understanding of the traditional Japanese arts by taking The Hato tour-bus company's Tokyo Nightlife Tour.

Our first Nightlife cultural stop was the famous Kabukiza theater, where we watched part of a Kabuki play. I have here a guide book clearly stating that Kabuki is the "height of artistic perfection" and an "unforgettable experience," so I have to conclude that the problem, on this particular evening, was me.

I should note that I've never been a big fan of any kind of classical performing art form. I am severely bored by opera and ballet, for example. The only ballet I ever enjoyed was one I saw on an outdoor stage, where instead of a curtain they had a large hedge that the dancers could duck behind. In the climactic scene, the lead ballerina got picked up by one of the male dancers, who was apparently supposed to wait her effortlessly offstage, but he was having trouble keeping her aloft, plus her tutu blocked his vision, so he lunged forward, building up a head of steam, and rammed her headfirst smack into the hedge.

Then he backed up, changed course slightly and ran her into the hedge again, before he finally managed to stagger offstage, with shabby clinging to both of their costumes. I was moved to tears.

So when it comes to the classical performing arts, I'm basically an unsophisticated low-rent Neanderthal kind of guy, which is why I'm probably just revealing my own intellectual limitations and cultural myopia when I tell you that Kabuki is the silliest thing I have ever seen on stage, and I have seen a man juggle two rubber chickens and a birthday cake.

For another thing, since all Kabuki actors are male, a man was playing the role of the heroine. According to the program notes, he was a famous Kabuki actor who was extremely skilled at portraying the feminine character by using subtle gestures and vocal nuances perfected over generations. But what he looked like, to the untutored eye, was a man with a four-year supply of white make-up on, mincing around stage and whining.

In fact everybody seemed to whine a lot. It was all that happened for minutes on end. Kabuki has about the same dramatic pacing as bridge construction. It's not at all unusual for a play to last 10 hours. And bear in mind that one hour of watching Kabuki is the equivalent of 17 hours spent in a more enjoyable activity, such as eye surgery.

After the play, we all got back onto the bus and went to a geisha house, where Mr. Sato, our tour guide, told us that we were going to witness an authentic geisha ceremony, performed by authentic trained geishas. He said it was a dying art form, because young women today no longer want to go into the geisha field, which I can certainly understand, because before you can become a geisha,

you have to spend years learning how to sing traditional songs and arrange flowers in a traditional way and pour tea in a ceremony so ancient and traditional and all-around slow that it makes Kabuki theater seem like a Madonna concert. It's not a modern, fast-paced, high-octane profession. You don't see geishas wearing beepers rushing off to perform emergency tea-pourings.

In fact you don't see geishas at all, because they're a dying breed. The geishas at the house that we went to all seemed to be grandmothers at the very minimum. Also there were no Japanese customers there.

But the ladies were very nice, they told us to take off our shoes and sit at some low tables, and we all suffered from leg cramps while they served us beverages. I ordered a beer, which they served via the ancient traditional method of opening a beer and putting it in front of me.

Next they performed some dances and songs for us, and then they announced that they were going to have a geisha courtesan ceremony. They asked for an audience volunteer to serve as the suitor, and I stuck my hand up.



PART IV DAVE DOES JAPAN

They brought me up on stage, put a kimono on me, and had me kneel on a pillow. Then they brought out the object of my affections, played by the head geisha, who was wearing a kimono and the traditional geisha facial cosmetics, which are apparently applied with a trowel. It looked like she had a half-inch-thick layer of plaster on her face. I'm sure she was a very nice person, but the overall effect was scary.

She danced around me, taking tiny steps and stopping every now and then to look sideways at me in what I assume was supposed to be a coquettish and flirtatious manner.

"Hey Big Boy!" was the message of this dance. "You like my floral arrangements?"

Next she filled a ceremonial pipe with tobacco, lit it, and handed it to me. I took a puff and emitted a ceremonial cough, then she took the pipe back. The

narrator announced that this was the crucial part of the ceremony, because if she also puffed on the pipe, it meant that she had agreed to marry me. After a moment of extreme suspense, she took a puff, and everybody clapped and the two of us lovebirds went off arm-in-arm, presumably to our Love Nest, where, unable to control our passion any longer, we would chisel off her face and look at photos of her grandchildren.

CONCLUSION

I would say that the single most important conclusion I reached, after having spent three weeks travelling through Japan, as well as countless hours reading and thinking about this fascinating culture, is that you should always tighten the cap on the shampoo bottle before you put it in your suitcase. Because otherwise — trust me here — it's going to leak all over everything, including your toothbrush, and when you brush your teeth you'll be foaming at the mouth, as though you've been bitten by a dog infected with herbal-scented rabies.

I also discovered that it is possible to gain weight even in a country whose idea of a taste treat is sea urchins.

I'd like to be able to conclude with some deeper insights into the Japanese, but looking back through my notes, I don't find any. I find a lot of notes like: CORN IN PIZZA!

So I'm afraid that my perspective on Japanese culture was severely limited, similar to the perspective I had of Mt. Fuji when I was riding around in the fog: I was there, but all I could see was the tiny bit of it right around me, and even that wasn't very clear. This is my fault. It was very stupid of me to go over there without learning to speak at least some Japanese, and I have solemnly promised myself to correct this mistake. ■

John Ritter Following in father's footsteps

Editor's note:

JOHN RITTER was born into the movie business. His father was Tex Ritter, a cowboy star of the 1930s and a musical performer (he sang the ballad for *High Noon*). John grew up watching his father perform, and he graduated in theater arts from the University of Southern California.

Ritter first drew attention playing a minister in the long running family series, *The Waltons*. He achieved stardom with the comedy *Three's Company*, playing a bachelor with two attractive roommates. He followed with another series, *Hooperman*.

Between TV assignments, Ritter has appeared on the stage and in films, among them *Problem Child* and *Skin Deep*. In his new film *Stay Tuned*, he and Pam Dawber play suburbanites who are sucked into a TV satellite dish and are forced by the devilish Jeffrey Jones to take part in demonic TV shows.

Q: John, does this movie come under the "biting the hand that fed you" category?

John Ritter: Yeah. It's a little nip. Things come around, and I think television deserves a little bite here and there. Just as actors do, and we get it whether we want it or not. We get bitten by the hands that used to clap for us.

Q: You're even doing a job on *Three's Company*?
A: An affectionate spoof, very affectionate, with the tongue in everyone's cheek.

Q: That show had a long run.
A: Yes, we did eight years with *Three's Company* and then I did *Three's a Crowd* for a year. That's longer than high school and college combined, and I learned a lot. It was interesting working with the guest stars. Some were comedians, some had only done soap, some had only done theater and looked down their noses at us. Yet, when the curtain went up, no matter who you had studied with, or how long you had studied, you had to fang your way to the audience. That was really one of the things about the way that show was run by the director and the producers. We didn't do re-takes. What you saw is what you got. If there was a boom in the shot, it was there.

We did two shows and they used the best of two shows and we were out on the street at eight-thirty on Friday night. It was really fun for us. The idea of working with different kinds of actors and guest stars was really fulfilling. It was like doing a little play every week.

Q: How did this movie come up?

A: Peter Hyams, the director, sent me the script. It was so wild. I was worried about whether they were going to spend the money to make it look great. Hyams was going to direct, so I knew it was going to be a classy film. I liked the look of *Outland*, of 2010, I loved *Running Scared*. He's done all different kinds of films. I think that's what was needed for this film, a guy who could do a fifties kind of Technicolor film as well as the Forties black-and-white gangster film and be in charge of comedy and love TV. Peter Hyams is really an amazing creative force and I always wanted to work with him. We had a special friendship.

Q: You had a great cast to work with, too.

A: I always wanted to work with

Pam Dawber. I've worked with Jonathan Winters and Robin Williams. No one can touch Robin Williams unless it's Jonathan Winters and no one can touch Jonathan Winters unless it's maybe Robin. But Pam is straight and can hold her own with those guys. No one gave her the credit she deserved, because I know what it was like dealing with those guys. She is such a gracious actress. She had great suggestions. She was integral to most of the creative process. If Pam had a suggestion, nine times out of ten she was right.

Q: You must have learned a lot of professionalism from your father.

A: Yes. His big thing was to be humble. I thought I was. He would say, "More humble son. There is always someone out there better than you." He was very proud of me. He saw me on *The Waltons*, but he wasn't alive for *Three's Company*.

Q: Genetically, you should have been a cowboy actor. But you got into comedy. How was that?



Family man: Ritter and his wife

A: I had done so many screen tests. I was just on the verge of getting things and I didn't quite get them. I remember meeting Peter Bogdanovich for this movie about Texas. He thought I was from Texas because of my accent, but it was just my dad's influence. He wanted me, and I even did an improvisation with Jeff Bridges for *The Last Picture Show* and he met my Dad for the part that Ben Johnson won the Oscar for. It turned out that he sort of wanted me, but the others said no. Timothy Bottoms was doing *Johnny Got His Gun*, and they said, "Timothy is maybe better for this part." Peter never forgot me. Years later Peter hired me for *Nickelodeon*, and *They All Laughed*. We've become really close friends over the years. ■

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UN Security Council authorizes force for Somalia

By Judy Alta

THE SECURITY Council December 3 authorized a major multinational military force to "use all necessary means to establish as soon as possible a secure environment" for the distribution of food, medicine and other humanitarian aid in Somalia.

The council unanimously adopted a resolution that, while not specifically mentioning the United States, gave Washington the go-ahead to lead the military operation. China had been expected to abstain because of its long-standing objection to the use of force. However, Ambassador Li Daoyu said that his nation approved the text because of China's profound sympathy for the Somali people — and because of the strong UN control over the operation.

The 21-point resolution was meticulously crafted over several days to accommodate a US desire to lead military matters while enabling Secretary General Boutros-Ghali and the Security Council to maintain political control.

The resolution refers specifically to the secretary general's recent letter in which he cites the US offer that "if the Security Council were to decide to authorize member states to use force to ensure the delivery of relief supplies to the people of Somalia, the United States would

be ready to take the lead in organizing and commanding such an operation in which a number of other member states would also participate."

US ambassador Edward Perkins said that "in offering to contribute to the effort authorized by this resolution, the United States has no other objective. Once deployed, our military forces will remain in Somalia no longer than is necessary. We look forward to the early transition to an effective United Nations peace-keeping force."

"While the resolution authorized the use of 'all necessary means', one point should be clear: Our mission is essentially a peaceful one, and we will endorse the use of force only if and when we decide it is necessary to accomplish our objective," Perkins said.

The ambassador noted that by responding to the tragedy in Somalia, "the international community is also taking an important step in developing a strategy for dealing with the potential disorder and conflicts of the post-Cold War world. This step must entail unprecedented levels of cooperation amongst the international community in response to urgent humanitarian needs."

The council authorized the secretary general and the nations contributing to the force to "make the necessary arrangements for

the unified command" and to establish appropriate mechanisms for coordination between the UN and the forces. Countries considering supplying troops to the force include Italy, Belgium, France, Nigeria and Pakistan.

The council earlier this year authorized the deployment of approximately 4,200 troops for UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), including a Pakistani contingent of 500 at the airport in Mogadishu.

Council members stressed that the operation represents an immediate emergency solution to an absolutely disastrous humanitarian problem; the long term solutions must be resolved by the Somalis themselves.

British Ambassador Sir David Hannay said that the objectives of the operation have been clearly established. "They are to bring humanitarian assistance to all those who need it throughout Somalia and that requires, it is now evident, a whole lot of complete-



UN intervention: Security for the starving?

ly exceptional and unusual measures."

The modalities themselves are innovative and different than the ones that have been tried before, but that doesn't make them any less UN objectives and UN-blessed modalities," Hannay said. The resolution demands that all parties, movements and factions

in Somalia immediately cease hostilities, maintain a cease-fire throughout the country and cooperate with the UN special envoy Ambassador Ismail Kitti, the multinational force and humanitarian organizations.

It "strongly condemns all the violations of international humanitarian law occurring in Somalia, including in particular the deliberate impeding of the delivery of food and medical supplies essential for the survival of the civilian population, and affirms that those who commit or order the commission of such acts will be held individually responsible."

The rare action by the council authorizing the use of force was prompted by Boutros Ghali's report on 30 November that the council has "no alternative but to decide to adopt more forceful measures to secure the humanitarian operations in Somalia" and a concomitant US offer to commit troops to such an operation.

The secretary general recommended "that the Security Council take a very early decision to adjust its approach to the crisis in Somalia. That crisis results from the fact that Somalia has become a country without a government or other political authorities with whom the basis for humanitarian activities can be negotiated."

USIS

Typhoid stalks Bosnia's homeless

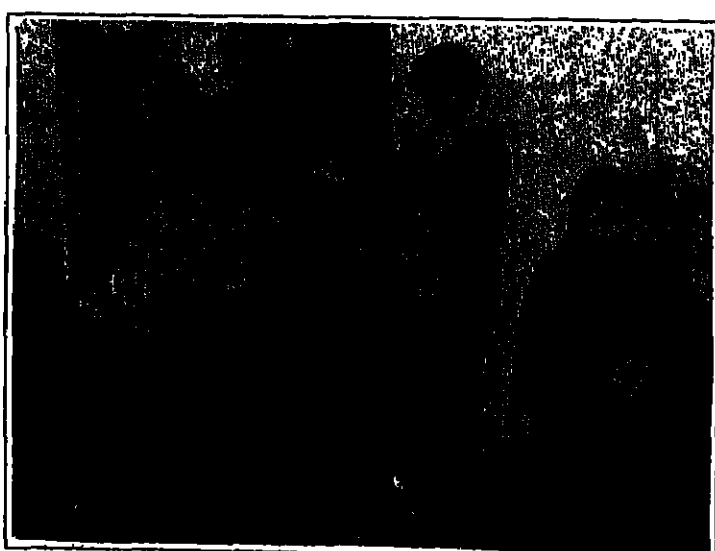
By Sybil Bernier-Hart

A YEAR ago the scenario would have been unlikely at best, unthinkable at worst — the European heartland of picturesque tourist villages ravaged by war, its alleyways riven by disease-bearing filth, its air thick with flies and mosquitoes. A nation that prided itself on cleanliness ceased to be one, in its unmaking the demon of pestilence and suffering was born.

As tens of thousands of displaced people in Bosnia and Herzegovina fight for shelter against winter, the essentials of life from clean water to medical care are being set aside. Starvation is a reality for whole communities and insanitary conditions have become a way of life. The continued fighting on several fronts guarantees that now victims are being pushed toward the makeshift camps and shelters each day.

The contaminated water supplies have led to an outbreak of typhoid fever and prompted new warnings that worse may be yet to come. Outbreaks of other diseases from contaminated water, such as hepatitis A, dysentery and gastroenteritis have been reported from certain areas but not yet confirmed by international authorities monitoring the situation.

By far the most serious outbreak of the disease has been caused by the infected water in Jajce, about 60 miles northwest



Urgent medical supplies arrive in Travnik, Bosnia

of Sarajevo. As the piped water supply dried up as a result of the hostilities, desperate inhabitants reached for alternative sources, most of which were contaminated.

Bosnian sources in London said the problem could only get worse, not better. "There are masses of Bosnian refugees currently in Travnik," said Paul Turkovic, a spokesman. "we may see trouble there soon."

He stressed that information on the sanitary conditions across the beleaguered country was scarce, but he pointed out that it was "anybody's guess that health conditions were pathetic."

Although it strove to maintain

exemplary health standards under the communist regime, the former Yugoslavia was not immune to the threat of epidemics. A typhoid epidemic swept through Jajce in 1987. The latest incidence in November, however, was the direct result of a five-month Serbian siege of the town which devastated many of its amenities, including the water supply system.

Exiles from the embattled region believe that the problem of sanitation would get worse even if international aid got through. "What foreign aid cannot possibly provide is fresh or clean water," said one London-based relief agency official. "With so

many towns and villages under siege there is little chance of improvement, unless the systematic encirclement of population centers by enemy forces is ended."

In Jajce alone, authorities said in November that at least 25 cases of typhoid had been confirmed. They added however that the actual figure could be much higher. As one official pointed out, with the town still caught in the crossfire several localities remained inaccessible.

Although reports of typhoid spreading in the war zone have circulated for at least two months, it was only on 16 November that the WHO office in Zagreb issued its first health warning. The UN office said outbreaks of typhoid fever had occurred both in areas immediately affected by war and in United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). Infected individuals were taken to Split, where most of them were hospitalized.

The WHO has reminded all those in the war-affected areas and the UNPAs of its standard advice on typhoid fever — that drinking water should either be boiled or treated with water purifying tablets, that fresh salads should not be eaten, and that fruit and raw vegetables should be peeled and washed in purified water before they are eaten. Hands should be washed with soap and water after using the toilet, before preparing food and before eating.

These precautions, which are

necessary whether or not individuals have been vaccinated against the disease, will reduce the risk of infection to a minimum. But most people in the war zone are unable to take those precautions for a variety of reasons, from lack of fuel to lack of soap — and indeed enough spare water for washing.

Typhoid fever is caused by *salmonella typhi*, the typhoid bacillus, transmitted by water or food that has been contaminated with excreta of an infected person. The incubation period usually ranges from one to three weeks, but a small percentage of those infected become symptomless carriers who remain infectious for years. The early symptoms include fever, headache, malaise and constipation more commonly than diarrhoea. The illness can become life-threatening if not treated with antibiotic drugs.

The message for the relief workers trying to reach out to the thousands exposed to the risk of typhoid and other water-related diseases is clear. Unless something is done soon to repair or clean up the water resources in the area and the inhabitants supplied with preventive medical care, typhoid may take the whole of the embattled region in its deadly grip and spread beyond the boundaries of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Academic File

Postmodernist Islam: The dilemmas of democracy

POSTMODERNISM AND ISLAM: Predicament and Promise, by Akbar S. Ahmed, London and New York, Routledge, 294 pp.

By Alouph Hareven

OUT OF a world population of 5.2 billion people, about one billion are Muslims. Though Islam is Arab in origin, only one fifth of the Muslims in the world, about 200 million, live in Arab countries. The largest groups live in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

There are also large Muslim populations in several African countries south of the Sahara — notably Nigeria — and in some of the independent republics which have emerged from the former Soviet Union. According to demographic estimates, by the year 2025, out of a world population of 8.3 billion, there will be nearly 2 billion Muslims.

The question of the future direction of Islam is an important one both for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. For Muslims it is primarily an internal question: What kind of state and society are likely to evolve in Muslim countries, and how are they to relate to the rest of the world — to the emerging so-called "new world order"? Will they be participants, or opponents?

Of course, one should avoid generalizations. One billion Muslims share the same faith but they are divided by a multiplicity of languages, national cultures, nation-states, differing national interests and differing economic concerns. In each of these countries, the interpretation and practice of Islam varies from group to group as well as between individuals.

The modern-day Muslim experience is at the heart of Akbar S. Ahmed's new book *Postmodernism and Islam*. Formerly a senior civil servant in Pakistan, Ahmed is a fellow of Setwyn College at Cambridge, and a leading scholar of Islam.

Ahmed sees modernity and its post-modern evolution as a mixture of good and evil, for while it claims to respect the individual, human rights and democracy, it also brings egotism, materialism, the disintegration of the family, social and cultural anarchy, and all too frequent stereotyping by mass media.

On the other hand, he points out that in most Muslim countries the arrival of modernity has coincided with the imposition of colonial rule. It follows that the rejection of colonial rule is accompanied by the rejection of modernity. Because of this Islam has for some become a bastion of self-defence or self-respect against the incursion of the world of foreigners and their cultures.

Ahmed is severely critical of Muslim countries for what he describes as the absence of genuine democracy, the prevalence of tyranny, the lack of tolerance for scientific inquiry. Yet he is deeply concerned that Islam should not be confounded with the extreme travesties of some of its practitioners. For him the essential message of Islam is one of

humility combined with equality. "The emphasis on a lack of priesthood and the rejection of merit based on wealth or lineage."

Ahmed's book has a tragic sense of the mutual misperceptions of Islamic and Western societies, and of the urgent need to dispel them. He calls on Muslims "to preserve the essence of the Quranic message... to participate in the global civilizations without their identity being obliterated." He calls also on the West "to expand the Western idealistic notions of justice, equality, freedom and liberty beyond their borders, to include all humanity."

In a religion whose key phrase

is "submission to God's will", the book questions who the legitimate authorities to interpret God's will are. With God being the only one to whose will all are expected to submit, he argues that it follows that the very submission to another person is linked to the question of legitimacy. Does submission to the will of God require a person to submit unquestioningly to the interpretation of God's will by the father, elder brother, husband, head of tribe or head of nation?

The book suggests that for as long as Islamic societies do not choose true democracy as the only way by which to confer legitimacy on a government, then



both rulers and ruled will continue in the unresolved tension of legitimacy.

This is the core dilemma of Islam. According to Ahmed, it cannot be solved from the outside, although it can of course be influenced by the spread of democracy in the world. A peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict would also lessen some of the prevailing tensions. The question remains, however, as to how a shared civility will replace the

prevailing hierarchies in these countries. This question is also of intense interest in the context of future Palestinian self-rule.

Akbar S. Ahmed has given us a provocative book about Islam and Postmodernity. Essentially it is a book not so much about Islam as about Muslims and their society, past and future. Readers will feel much empathy with his sense of tragedy and his painful quest for hope.

The Jerusalem Post

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By Jennifer Foulds

NEARLY 700 years of painting on the South Asian subcontinent, from the Mughal to the Punjabi styles, is encapsulated in the internationally famous Edwin Binney the Third Collection, reputedly the most comprehensive assemblage of South Asian paintings in the western hemisphere.

Encompassing every known school of painting from India and Pakistan, the collection consists of 1400 works from the 12th to the earlier part of this century. Recently a selection from this fabulous collection was shown, amid rave reviews, to the American public at the San Diego Museum of Art in California. Entitled *Myths, Monsters, Maharajas*, the selection was made by Dr Ellen Smart, the newly appointed curator of South Asian art at the museum and herself a recognised world authority on Indian art.

The 100 paintings in the selection reflect a whole range of styles which prevailed in the courts of the Mughal, Rajput, Deccani and Punjab Hill rulers over 700 years. The earliest work, an illustrated Buddhist palm leaf text, was dated 1139 AD. A particularly strong component of the Binney collection is its Mughal paintings. Painting thrived during the reign of Emperor Akbar (1542-1605), who encouraged his Muslim and Hindu painters to chronicle not only the historically important events of his reign but also everyday life. The paintings offer insight into many aspects of life in 16th and 17th-century India.

One of the earliest examples is a page from *Tul Nama* (Tales of a Parrot), painted in 1560. The picture shows an episode from the tale of the many misfortunes which befell Khurshid because of her great beauty. She is depicted on board a ship in a turbulent sea, where she has been taken into slavery by a dishonest merchant. The painting demonstrates the Akbari mixture of traditional Indian painting, evident in its depiction of Khurshid, and the infusion of dramatic presentation in the vigorous and animated depictions of those around her.

Early Rajput painting, embodying the chivalric code of physical courage, independence and romantic passion, is characterized by flat expanses of intense color and much symbolism. Rajput paintings sometimes have the feeling of modern works. Subject matter is often mystical, as in the leaf from the *Bhagavata Purana*, a Hindu religious poem recounting episodes from the life of Krishna, dated circa 1560-65.

The painting shows Krishna on his way to the rescue of two women held captive in a fortified castle. All the elements of a powerful drama are brilliantly displayed here: The women imprisoned by the demon Narak, the well-armed hero Krishna arriving on the wings of the bird-man, Garuda, and the citadel complete with canon and a moat. Roughly 100 years later, the Rajput schools of painting inter-acted with the Mughal school, due in part to the influx of Mughal artists at Rajput courts. This led to greater interest in portraiture as well as stylistic borrowing from the Mughal school. Depiction of religious subjects continued during this period and glorification of the rulers was often a theme of later Rajput paintings.

Daily pastimes of the rulers were also recorded, as in the painting of the ruler of Mewar, Rana Bhim Singh Frolicking in his Pool. Another Rajput portrait in the exhibition showed Raja Pratap Singh of Sawar mounted on a blue stallion.

The Deccani rulers commissioned elegantly sensitive paintings that, like Mughal works, blend exotic and native Indian influences. Deccani paintings are famous for the strong, sensuous use of pinks, oranges and violets. Deccani artistic interest extended to marbled paper, a highly complicated process in which pigments are floated in oil over the surface of the paper. A superb example of the process on view was a leaf from an album of marbled paper. The image, *A Tiger Eating a Ga-*

zelle, Surrounded by Deer, was made about 1650.

The paintings from the relatively isolated Punjab Hills were not as quickly or thoroughly influenced by Mughal traditions. Two major types of painting emerged in the Himalayan region. One, developed in conjunction with Hindu rites and highly colored

and symbolically conceived, was represented by the work of artists in the states of Basholi, Mankot and Kulu.

The other style, influenced by Mughal painting, was of a lyrical, romantic nature, and was associated with the states of Chuler and Kangra. The Kangra variant perhaps was the largest and most

famous school of Rajput painting in the Punjab Hills. It is represented by a 19th century painting, *Krishna Awakes the Return of his Second Emissary*, highlighting the romance of the god and his beloved Radha.

Jennifer Foulds is a writer and researcher based in Los Angeles.

Myths of Maharajas and monsters



Dramatic depiction: 'Killing a Dragon' (left) and 'Combat with a Dragon'

Miniaturist in a man's world

By Sybil Bernier-Hart

THE BRITISH capital's Commonwealth Institute is the educational and cultural center of the 50 Commonwealth countries. It promotes the Commonwealth to people in the UK through a variety of programs and activities reflecting Commonwealth peoples and issues, and is the venue for a diversity of exhibitions, like the two forthcoming exhibitions on miniature art and Indian costume.

Both shows depict women. *Nayika: Representation of the Female Form in Miniature Art*, is the sixth annual exhibition of contemporary Indian miniatures, and opens at the Bowness Gallery, running until 17 January 1993.

Nayika is the Indian term used for the heroines of ancient Indian literature. Included under that theme, are works by Meena Saran, one of only a handful of women artists in a male-dominated profession, who is showing her miniatures for the first time in the UK.

Also featured are works by miniaturists Ghanshyam Nimbul, known for his portrayal of the flora and fauna of the Kashmir Valley; Irshad ul-Haq, a self-taught artist with outstanding natural talent; and Piroze, a descendant of the famous artist Ustad Mansur, who painted in the court of the fourth Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

Meena Saran comes from a family of miniaturists who have lived and worked in Delhi for generations, and she is one of the few women miniature artists in India today. She apprenticed un-

der her grandfather, a master miniaturist who recognized her early talents and put her through the intensive and disciplined training usually reserved for sons.

Women are depicted in miniature art by an elaborate and complex set of rules, which were drawn up in the 2nd century AD. Before the time, miniatures depicted only men. The new rules rigidly defined attributes such as hair color and the shape of the eyes, features which varied according to the woman's status and role.

Meena Saran now specializes in portraying these women of the Mughal courts: The empresses, courtesans, lovers, sportswomen, and goddesses of Hindu mythology. She has also developed miniature art by using the time-honored traditional techniques to paint contemporary scenes of Indian life.

Nayika is curated by Anita Kapur who has been instrumental in bringing contemporary Indian miniatures to audience in Britain, Europe and the Philippines over



Nayika in attendance on a Prince

the past 10 years. Her interest is in preserving what was becoming a dying tradition by giving artists international exposure.

A second exhibition, on at the Institute's Today Gallery from 27 November 1992 to 24 January 1993, is *Odhnis: Rajasthan Through the Veil*. The fascinating exhibition features the richly colored head drapes or *odhnis* worn by women in one of India's most impoverished areas - Rajasthan. Their brilliant tie-dyed colors stand out amidst a stark and sterile desert landscape, an affirmation of life in the face of

dire hardship and deprivation.

Odhnis are decorated by tie-dyeing, block printing or embroidery, and of the three methods it is tie-dyeing which has the deepest cultural ties and is celebrated in regional folk songs. The technique probably developed during the Indus Valley civilization between 1500 and 3000 BC; it was certainly introduced to Rajasthan in the 15th century, and is now unique to Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Odhnis may be pink, scarlet, yellow and purple, lime green and sky blue, imaginative combinations of richly vibrant colors sometimes enhanced with silver or gold ribbon sprinkled with "gold" dust. The most common hue is red, the colour for Indian brides, and it is often combined with yellow, an auspicious color denoting the sun, fertility and rebirth. A mother will give a yellow *odhni* with a traditional lotus pattern to her daughter after she has her first child.

The word *odhni* means "to cover the head", and these head drapes are also called *chunari*, which means a fabric of dotted patterns. Whatever its name, the *odhni* is an integral part of Rajasthan women's costume.

They symbolize womanhood and marriage and are connected with *Nayika*, the courageous and romantic heroine of Indian epics. They identify which region and community a woman comes from and indicate if she is single, married, widowed, or the mother of a child. Some are worn only for special ceremonies, such as for the changing seasons or religious festivals.

Academic File.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
12-18
December

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos
9:00 — Perspective
9:30 — Saturday Variety Show
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film, 'Foul Play', Starring Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Family Matters
9:10 — National Geographic
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Law and Order

MONDAY

8:30 — Step By Step
9:10 — A Fine Romance
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Dismissal

TUESDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls
9:30 — Minsiret
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film, 'The Captive City', Starring John Forsythe and Harold Kennedy. Relating the tale of a determined small-town journalist who tries to fight organized crime in his town.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved By The Bell
9:00 — Spot Light
9:30 — James Rands
10:00 — News in English

THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck
9:10 — Civil Wars
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'Love Is a Ball', Starring Glenn Ford and Hope Lange. A match-maker plans the marriage of a Spanish girl.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close for Comfort
9:10 — Equal Justice
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Columbo
11:10 — Mr Bean

Top Pop Albums

1. Keo the Faith, Bon Jovi, Mercury
2. Timeless (The Classics), Michael Bolton, Columbia
3. Love Deluxe, Sade, Epic
4. Unplugged, Eric Clapton, Reprise
5. What's the 411?, Mary J Blige, Up-town
6. Auto-matic for the People, REM, Warner Bros.



Top Video Rentals

1. Basic Instinct, Michael Douglas, Sharon Stone, Live Home Video
2. Batman Returns, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Warner Home Video
3. Thunderheart, Val Kilmer, Fred Ward, Columbia Tristar Home Video
4. Beauty and the Beast, Animated, Walt Disney Home Video
5. My Cousin Vinny, Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei, Fox Video
6. The Cutting Edge, D.B. Sweeney, Moira Kelly, MGM/UA Home Video

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★★★★★★★★★

ARIES (21 March-19 April): A great time for falling in love. You may not have much interest in working, however.
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): Don't expect to get much done. A friendship you make this week could last forever.
GEMINI (21 May-20 June): You'll breeze through even the most difficult work. Being confident helps!

CANCER (21 June-22 July): Be careful of your money. It could slip away from you. If possible, do all the hardest jobs early.

LEO (23 July-22 August): You'll be in top shape this week. You might take a few laps around the track, just for the fun of it.

VIRGO (23 August-22 October): You may feel pressured, don't let it get you down. You'll be magnificent. You may have trouble avoiding distractions, however.

LIBRA (23 September-22 October): A friend's advice could save you a lot of trouble. Don't take anything for granted.

SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): You may get off to a slow start. If it feels like the boss has it in for you, just keep a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): It will be great for travel or sports this week, if you aren't stuck doing something else. Your ability to make decisions is good.

CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): You could experience a financial drain. Fees you've overlooked, or couldn't afford, are coming due.

AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): Your friends will be very valuable to you this week! Working with a partner will be most effective.

PISCES (19 February-20 March): Your escape valve is humor, so use it! You may think there is too much to be done. Take the time to be organized.

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SPECIAL RFJ

Portrait de Kawther Saleh

A la vie comme à l'antenne

Qu'est-ce qui se cache derrière la voix de vos matins croissants-chauds sur RFJ? Une passionnée de radio et de chanson française

"ET MAINTENANT, Louise Féron, tombé sous le charme"... Il arrive à tout le monde de tomber sous le charme de quelqu'un. Celui de Kawther Saleh, par exemple, nouvelle animatrice-vedette des petits matins de la Radio Francophone de Jordanie. C'est sa voix chaude et suave qui apporte du soleil dans votre café. Qui vous réveille en douceur à 7h00 précises, pour vous bercer le temps de quelques chansons françaises, des infos en tout genre, de l'horoscope...

Kawther Saleh, chef d'orchestre de RFJ, est brune aux yeux noirs. Elle porte des pantalons bleu marine et des bottes noires montantes. L'auditeur cherche toujours à savoir ce qui se cache derrière une voix... Mais attention! Celle qui vous fait rêver tous les matins a déjà rencontré l'homme de sa vie.

Le rêve de la radio

Kawther Saleh est originaire de Zaghouan, petite ville de Tunisie située à 53 kilomètres de la capitale. Elle a fait des études de droit à Damas, "car mon père voulait que ce soit en langue arabe". A Tunis, la plupart des cours d'université sont donnés en français. En 1983, direction Amman, Pétra et Aqaba pour un voyage purement touristique. Il se transforme en mariage.

En 1989, Kawther Saleh rentre à la télévision nationale jordanienne. On cherche des speakerines à la Section française. Elle est embauchée sur le champ. Mais le travail ne la captive pas. Quelques brèves apparitions à l'antenne. Sans plus. Après un stage de reportage en Tunisie au mois de juin dernier, Kawther Saleh réalise son rêve. Se retrouver à l'antenne, derrière les micros d'une radio francophone en Jordanie. Le 28 décembre dernier, alors que François Mitterrand est en visite dans le royaume, la voix de Kawther Saleh inaugure les programmes de RFJ. En même temps que les ministres venus apposer leurs signatures.

"Le premier jour, j'avais le trac, confie Kawther, j'ai dû passer trois heures en studio, ça fait long!" Pourtant, elle est loin



Kawther Saleh

d'être timide. "Je suis du signe du lion, ce sont des gens très forts qui aiment faire ce genre de travail. J'aurais aussi voulu être avocate". Il n'est jamais trop tard. D'ailleurs, Kawther veut reprendre ses études de droit. En attendant, elle est à la vie comme à l'antenne: naturelle. "On ne change pas sa personnalité parce qu'on est derrière un micro. Je suis toujours très ouverte... Ce qui parfois me crée beaucoup de problèmes".

Pour le moment, Kawther Saleh combine la radio et la télévision. Elle prête toujours sa voix aux bandes annonces de la TV jordanienne en français. Mais cela devient un peu plus dur chaque jour. "Cela me prend beaucoup de temps aux dépens de ma famille". Aussi, la radio est une activité qu'elle aime de la disponibilité. Kawther envisage de s'y consacrer entièrement. "J'ai envie de quitter la télévision" dit-elle. Un choix qui dépend des

conditions salariales de la radio. "D'ici trois à quatre mois, les choses vont changer" espère-t-elle.

Kawther Saleh adore le direct. Elle vous fait partager son plaisir à se réveiller en musique. La chanson française, elle connaît. Son enfance tunisienne a été bercée par les tubes français qui passaient à la radio. Elle cite des noms en vrac: Sardin, Dassin, Dalida. Son chanteur favori du moment: Jean-Jacques Goldman. Sans oublier MC Solaar, Mylène Farmer ou Jeanne Mas. L'avenir de Kawther? Ce sera derrière les micros de la Radio Francophone de Jordanie. Un vœu: réaliser des programmes culturels. "Je ne veux pas m'en tenir à l'animation de variétés. Je voudrais proposer une émission sur les écrivains arabes" confie-t-elle. Et d'ajouter: "Je ne veux pas faire le DJ toute ma vie, je veux travailler pour des programmes plus élaborés".

Michel Armand

Télex... Jordanie

HASSAN - "La Jordanie ne peut être pressée davantage" a déclaré lundi le Prince héritier, dans une interview à la télévision autrichienne. "Clinton doit être actif dans le processus de paix" a-t-il ajouté. Le Prince héritier et la Princesse Sarvath sont rentrés lundi soir d'un voyage en Autriche et en Croatie. Lors de ce voyage, le Prince Hassan a visité les unités jordaniennes qui servent dans la force de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies en Croatie.

MEURTRE - Un spécialiste du nucléaire irakien a été tué lundi matin dans le quartier de Jebel Muss-ein. Selon la police, la victime a été attaquée par des assaillants inconnus alors qu'elle marchait dans la rue avec sa famille. Les agresseurs ont ouvert le feu sur l'irakien et ont pris la poudre d'escampette. La victime aurait été touchée à quatre reprises à la tête et au corps, sous les yeux de sa famille. Ce spécialiste irakien était un officier de la Commission à l'Énergie atomique irakienne.

SUICIDE - Un docteur de 38 ans, Abdullah Rubellat a tué cette semaine dans l'ouest d'Amman, sa fille de 25 ans, avant de se suicider. Selon des sources hospitalières, cet homme subissait un traitement psychiatrique. Dr Rubellat était directeur adjoint de l'hôpital Al Bachir d'Amman.

A VOIR...

CINEMA - Hommage à Marcel CARNE au Centre culturel français. Lundi 14 décembre, à 20h00, Les enfants du paradis (1944). Avec: Arietty, Jean-Louis Barrault, Maria Casarès...



Reportage

Hep Garçon, deux croissants pour RFJ

Après une semaine d'existence, la Radio Francophone de Jordanie atteint son rythme de croisière. En attendant de pouvoir faire mieux!

"BONJOUR L'AMOUR, exactement..." Mohammad Zeitoun, technicien de la Section française, capte quelques mots. Ce petit homme au keffiyeh rouge, veste marron et cravate à pois, est le premier auditeur de RFJ. La Radio Francophone de Jordanie c'est son Centre culturel à lui. Une manière d'apprendre la langue et de faire connaissance avec la chanson française. "Mouch mouchkile habibi!" Le disque part comme sur des roulettes. Jean-Jacques Goldman nous emmène "à bas". Il est 7 heures et quelques secondes. Bienvenue à bord de la Radio Francophone de Jordanie, sur 90 MHz en VHF FM Stévo. Mohammad travaille à la radio depuis 20 ans. De quoi se faire appeler "le vieux". Avec RFJ, il se refait une nouvelle jeunesse.

"Ça roule"

Mohammad se concentre. Jingle: "Hep garçon, deux croissants chauds, c'est pour RFJ!". La voix est celle de Philippe Paupert, expert radio français. Il supervise, se retrouve les manchettes, jette un oeil tranquille et attentif sur chaque détail. "Maintenant ça roule" luche-t-il. Il arrive que je quitte le studio, tout se passe bien pour les prises de micro... Et de préciser: "C'est une machine qui tourne, il faut maintenant la perfectionner". Kawther Saleh, nouvelle animatrice-vedette en Jordanie, enchaîne les disques avec une facilité déconcertante. Une semaine de pratique, et déjà de la graine de professionnelle.

Kawther prépare la première demi-heure de son show. Pour le reste, elle improvise. Les visages affichent une certaine déconcentration. Silence soudain... Une seconde de tension. Problème technique? Rien ne se ressentira à l'antenne. "RFJ, une tranche de soleil dans votre bul de café..." Deuxième jingle. Toujours la voix de Philippe Paupert. "Je souhaiterais programmer des émissions plus solides. Je voudrais que Kawther Saleh et Haitham Shibli, les deux piliers du programme, reçoivent un complément de formation".

Bien sûr 9h00. Le groupe Gold, originaire de Toulouse en est à ses dernières mesures. "Attention" dit Mohammad. Sourires... Deux quidams entrent dans le studio. Rires... Le proposé au plateau nettoie la table de mixage. Le spécialiste du coton-tige entre-tient les têtes de lecture. Haitham se met en place. C'est l'heure du rappel des titres. Hors antenne: "Je peux dire bonsoir, c'est la fin maintenant!" Le "Duel au soleil d'Électre Daho" se termine... "Bonjour..." Place aux infos.

Kawther reprend la main et vient



L'équipe de RFJ

clure le programme avec seulement quatre secondes de retard... L'antenne s'arrête et le travail commence. Direction le bureau. Sur la porte, une plaque et une inscription en anglais: "Foreign services". Un poster de Julien Clerc est là pour vous souhaiter la bienvenue. Une affiche de film, "Attention bandits" de Claude Lelouch, marque également le terrain. Ici, c'est le service en français. Des murs fraîchement peints, quelque part entre la discothèque et les studios. Pas le temps de se relaxer. Chacun se met au travail pour préparer les prochaines émissions...

L'esprit de la radio

"C'est très tôt pour juger", affirme Haitham Shibli, responsable de la Section. "Nous tenons maintenant l'esprit de la radio, nous avons moins peur, nous avons moins le trac..." ajoute-t-il. La première semaine était une

"C'est vraiment une équipe, personne n'est meilleur que l'autre... Ici, tout le monde travaille ensemble" affirme Philippe Paupert

prise de rythme. Un pari difficile pour Haitham Shibli et Kawther Saleh, qui travaillent l'après-midi à la télévision. Au début, sommeil ne rimait pas avec repos. Impossible d'oublier le lendemain. "Quelques feedbacks nous ont rassuré" confie Haitham Shibli.

Philippe Paupert pousse un ouf de soulagement. Le plus dur est passé. Seul remède pour angoisses prolongées: "L'antenne". Une rude épreuve lorsque des ministres interviennent en direct comme le jour de l'inauguration. Tout est rentré dans l'ordre. L'équipe de RFJ suit une courbe ascendante. "C'est vraiment une équipe, personne n'est meilleur que l'autre... Ici, tout le monde travaille ensemble" affirme Philippe Paupert. Sur le mur, une photo de La Canée en Crète est mise en évidence. Elle évoque un précédent stage de l'équipe et met l'accent sur la volonté d'aller de l'avant. A quelques centimètres de là, l'équipe a affiché quelques articles du Star et une caricature de Al-Raf. Deux Jordaniens dans un camion qui dépassent les limites de vitesse: "Plus vite, Abou Mahjoul, on va rater les infos en français..."

A quelques encablures, "Abou

nous avions eu plus de temps, nous aurions fait quelque chose de plus professionnel". Le personnel aurait été mieux formé. L'équipe aurait proposé des programmes élaborés en marge de la musique.

Autre question incontournable: les salaires. Nul ne doute que l'équipe aurait préféré attendre la grande restructuration du Service public prévue pour ce mois-ci. "En Jordanie, un secrétaire dans le secteur privé gagne plus que le directeur des Services étrangers de la radio" se plaint Jawad Zada. Résultat: il faut en permanence former du nouveau personnel pour pallier les démissions et autres départs. Conséquence: avec un staff aussi volatile, Radio Jordanie demeure une antenne sans véritable expérience ni continuité.

Jawad Zada est un vieux routier de la radio. Il peut se vanter d'avoir créé trois nouvelles stations à lui tout seul. Son objectif: ne pas répéter les mêmes erreurs. Et mener la Section française à bon port. Prochaine étape: obtenir davantage de personnel afin de pouvoir diffuser l'antenne. Jawad Zada souffre du manque de feedback. Sa solution sera de faire participer les auditeurs. Le père de la Section française est l'avocat des "quizz" ou des programmes de dédicaces. Avant de pouvoir augmenter le temps d'antenne, de passer en ondes moyennes pour diffuser à l'étranger. Les ambitions ne manquent pas. Le développement de la Section française dépend entièrement de la restructuration tant attendue...

Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

De Amine Chabouh

Anniversaire

LE MOT Intifada, adopté par plus d'un dictionnaire, véhicule non seulement l'image universelle de l'enfant à la pierre, mais surtout le succès d'un moyen de lutte. Cette révolte, par sa spontanéité et son originalité, a hissé la cause palestinienne au niveau des préoccupations de la communauté internationale.

L'Intifada a réparé une image de la lutte du peuple palestinien, ternie par les débordements des actes de violence armée, menés à l'étranger. Le terrorisme, dont les victimes étaient dans la plupart des cas des civils, a failli jeter la cause des Palestiniens aux oubliettes de l'Histoire.

Ce mois-ci, l'entrée de l'Intifada dans sa sixième année, coïncide avec le cinquième anniversaire de la proclamation de l'État palestinien par le CNP. Si l'État palestinien, privé d'un territoire national, en est resté au stade de la proclamation, l'Intifada, en revanche, a engendré une génération capable de défier la soldatesque la plus redoutable de la région du Moyen-Orient. Et des négociateurs qui ont fait leurs preuves face à des Israéliens intraitables.

Alors que Hanane Achrapul, Haidar Abdel Shafi et Fayçal Hussein, se débattaient à Washington ou ailleurs pour maintenir la carte palestinienne dans le jeu, les enfants de la pierre renforcent leur base arrière avec une énergie remarquable.

La bilan a cessé d'être déficitaire pour les Palestiniens. Le nombre des victimes côté israélien n'est plus négligeable. Cette semaine, trois soldats de Tsahal, dont un officier, ont péri sous les balles des enfants de l'Intifada. Un signe inquiétant pour les Israéliens, car l'Intifada, tout en restant un soulèvement populaire dans les limites territoriales, menace de passer à la vitesse supérieure: le recours aux armes. Si les Israéliens n'admettent pas les "drols nationaux" du peuple palestinien, ils assumeront la responsabilité de la prochaine guerre.

The Star
Tel. 648 - 298

Would You Believe....

During World War II, a carrier pigeon named G.I. Joe saved the lives of more than 1,000 British soldiers in Italy by delivering a message that resulted in their rescue.

The very first intercollegiate football game was played back in 1869 between Princeton and Rutgers. The final score was 6-4, and the game was played using soccer rules.

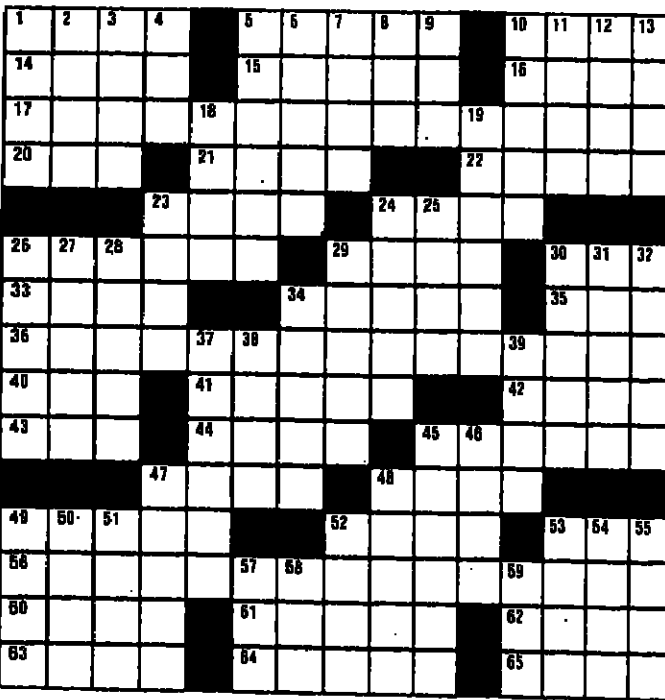
President Andrew Johnson had no formal education of any kind. In fact, his wife was the person who taught him how to write.

Pluto has such an irregular orbit that at times it is closer to the Earth than Neptune.

In Panama, the Atlantic Ocean actually is west of the Pacific Ocean.

* CROSSWORD PUZZLE *

ACROSS	42 Nautical man	6 Warn	37 Home
1 Canvassing of a group	43 "Norma" —	8 Bandleader	38 Spanish river
5 Arum plant	44 Host	9 Brown	39 Discharge
10 Genesis name	45 Heating tank	10 Hardwood	45 Falsely holding
14 Hedgepodge	47 Olympian	11 Computer	46 Contemporary cartel
15 Bitter drug	48 Lost in	12 Input	47 Record
16 Festive	49 Concerning	13 Great	48 Is worthy
17 Stay calm	52 Bern's river	14 Was in the	49 Water
20 Over there	53 — whiz!	15 Mischievous	50 — tide
21 Message	54 "— Tales" (Cooper)	16 Throw	51 Building part
22 Full of substance	60 Yielded	17 Shrewd	52 Serpents
23 Penny	61 Mature	18 in Scotland	53 — monster
24 Sleeveless garment	62 Like a bump on —	19 Encourage in crime	54 Sufficient
26 Outward appearance	63 Copycat	20 Certain musician	55 Inlet
28 US physicist	64 Talkative	21 Sphere of conflict	56 Work unit
30 Water barrier	65 Playing marbles	22 Hell	57 Narrow inlet
33 Makes huffy		23 Pluvial	58 Krazy —
34 Glass sections	DOWN	24 Transferable design	
35 Concoct	1 Slow	31 Quartz variety	
36 Source of pride	2 Grocery item	32 Sad sack	
40 Units of measure	3 Legal paper	34 School affairs	
41 Dark	4 Cul		
	5 Dog		



Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

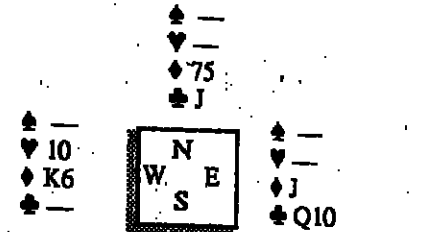
JORDAN BRIDGE

By Hassan Ghanem

Tightening the screw

Deciding that the ♠ 10 was an honest card, you forget about the heart finesse and decide to go for the squeeze.

You cash the rest of dummy's spades — the ♠ A and the ♠ K. And go back to your hand via overraking the ♥ Q by the ♥ A. Now you cash your ♠ K and watch the screw tightened on south when you cash the ♠ Q in the following diagram.



West climbed all the way up to 7♠ after a very informative auction. The hand was going to be played by East who won the ♠ J and played the ♠ A and the ♠ K. On the third spade, south discarded the ♠ 10 to show interest in the heart suit. Was it the ♥ K? Or, was she feigning? Take the East seat and plan your play before going on.

A week ago, the hand came up during a Chicago practice session. Sahar Murad, a very keen player towards developing her game quality, finessed the ♥ Q and went one light like most of us would go. Another good player suggested that the clubs three top honors should be cashed at an earlier stage to find out if the ♠ J was going to drop; it was not, here is the full hand:

♠ 982	♠ 982
♥ 654	♥ 654
♦ 754	♦ 754
♣ 7984	♣ 7984

♠ AKQ1024	♠ J3
♥ Q103	♥ AJ82
♦ AK65	♦ J32
♣ A	♣ KQ105

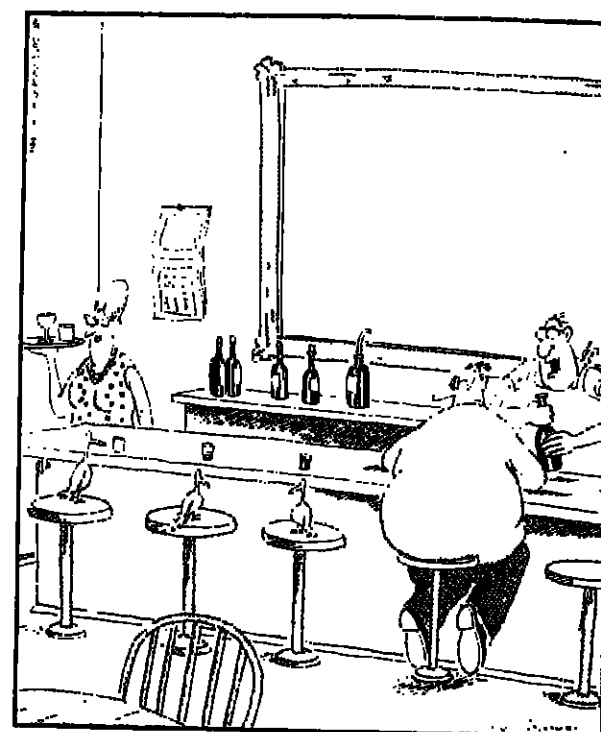
South is forced to discard the ♠ 9 to keep the ♥ K, now you discard the ♥ 10 after it did its job. The screw is tightened on North now, she is forced to discard a diamond to keep her ♠ J to take care of your ♠ 10.

At last, you start cultivating what you planted, overtake your ♠ J and your ♠ 6 is becoming the third-trick.

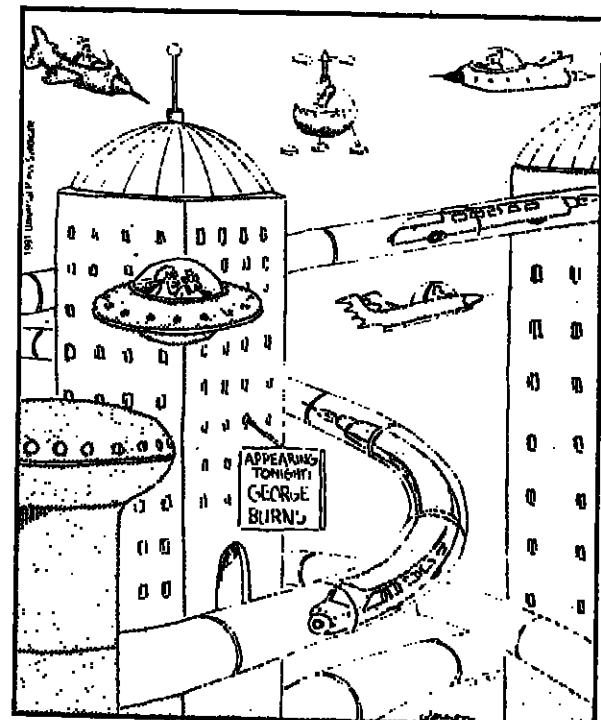
The double squeeze is a rare bird and not easy to allocate. Sahar could have executed her first double squeeze, but after all who would resist a simple finesse and who would trust an opponent signal in a grand slam.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"I hate 'em. They mess on the stools, they attack the mirror — and, of course, they drink like birds."



That night, their revenge was meted out on both Farmer MacDougal and his wife. The next day, police investigators found a scene that they could describe only as "grisly, yet strangely hilarious."

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	644635
Bahrain	661148
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677559
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672331
Hungarian	815614
Indian	637262
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
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Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	67135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
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North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistan	622787
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Saudi Arabian	814154
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Swiss	669177/9
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Tunisian	674307/8
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	698851

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Alymda (Air Yemen)	653491
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Arab Wings	894484
Adria Airways	667029
Austrian Airlines	637806/67028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	653606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwaiti Airlines	690144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
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Thai Airways	604649
Tunis World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911
Queen Alia Airport (08)53200	

Diary

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Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth City	667181/5
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Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

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Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675571

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Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
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Al-Jabal	606669
Kada	665161/665153
Al-Labadi	813554
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Petra	605501
Rabbit Amman	672424
Al-Rimal	639861
Al-Samer	771707
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Star	604904
Tiger	671931
Trust	673312
Al-Waha	674105
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Amman	666327
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Avis Jarrar	08/51000
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De'as	669970
Dirani	660601
Europcar	601350/80
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Chulf	660902

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Crown	798181
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Jerusalem	665094
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Commodor	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	661114
International	841712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	510000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111
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Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340
Al-Caza	314131
Coral Beach	313321
Aquamarina	316250
Aqaba	314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel	316636

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Amman Governorate	91228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
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Amman fire brigade	198
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Blood Bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	630341
Police rescue	621111, 637777
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RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

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Husseini Medical Centre	813813
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Akheh Maternity	642441/2
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Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church: (Roman Catholic), Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq, Tel. 811295.

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